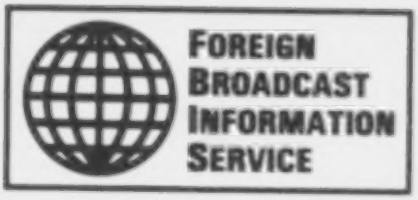

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Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Sharif: Christopher Tour Last Chance for Peace

LD0308181093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to brother leader president Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], said that Christopher's tour could be the last chance to save the peace process. He holds Washington totally responsible for salvaging of the peace process and pushing it forward. He added that any attempts to override the rights of the Palestinian people, to divide their sovereignty on their land or to try and remove Jerusalem from the sphere of this sovereignty would only lead to the total failure of the process.

Palestinian delegation spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said that there is a political responsibility to listen to what the Americans have to say, but imposing a settlement by force is out of the question.

PPP Affirms Boycott of Christopher Meetings

TA0308142093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Aug 93 pp 1, 15

[Text] Jerusalem—The Palestinian People's Party [PPP] has affirmed its previous decision to boycott Palestinian meetings with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The PPP justified this stance in its principled refusal to deviate from what had been agreed on earlier and in drifting into discussing a declaration of principles whose main article is epitomized by abandoning the negotiating terms of reference, ignoring implementation of Resolution 242, evoking doubt on the characteristic of the occupied territories, and considering them "disputed areas." This came in a leaflet distributed yesterday in the occupied territories.

The leaflet called on "all the Arab parties to boost coordination and agree on a single negotiating plan that closes existing loopholes among the tracks and calls for implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 in accordance with an agreed on timetable, and adopts all necessary steps on the Arab and international levels, including suspending participation in the talks collectively, in order to force Israel and apply pressure on it to respond to the requirements of peace and comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy."

PFLP Official Urges Rejection of U.S. 'Approach'

JN0408095993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Aug 93 p 30

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has stated that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will seek, during his current tour of the region, to advance the peace process, capitalizing on the outcome of the war Yitzhaq Rabin launched on the Palestinian and Lebanese fronts on the basis of the draft declaration of principles submitted during the 10th round of talks.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Malluh added that Christopher had sent messages to the concerned Arab sides prior to the start of his tour, expressing unwillingness to discuss the Israeli aggression on Lebanon, and demanding Arab engagement in a discussion of substantive issues, particularly on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks.

Malluh went on to say: Christopher will attempt to make the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, as well as the Lebanese people accept the realities created by the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. Such acceptance is meant to be used as a basis for discussing the terms of the settlement he seeks to achieve.

Malluh says: The Arab sides should reject the U.S. approach. Furthermore, they must discuss the essence of the U.S. role, which is biased toward Israel. They must also discuss U.S. partiality and lack of credibility, as well as the failure of the United States to keep its promises and honor its commitments, including those pertaining to the relevant UN resolutions, which the United States endorsed. Additionally, the concerned Arab sides must ask Christopher to demonstrate impartial mediation before discussing any issue with him.

In reply to a question, Malluh added: We urge the Palestinian side to reject, in principle, the draft U.S.-Israeli declaration of principles, because our people in the occupied territories will not accept the fragmentation of their cause and rights. They will persist with the struggle to achieve their national rights, ensure Israeli troop withdrawal, and establish an independent Palestinian state.

Malluh went on to say: We wished to see all members of the negotiating Palestinian team follow the footsteps of Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and the Palestinian People's Party, who are boycotting the talks with Christopher and demanding that the United States show impartiality and credibility first and foremost. We are all confident that the boycott of the talks with Christopher will be collective when and if Christopher comes to the region on another tour, particularly after the proposals he is carrying to resolve the Palestine question will have by then become clearer.

'Arafat Receives Messages From Russian Leadership

LD0408100893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today held meeting with a Russian leadership envoy at the Palestinian headquarters in Tunis. During the meeting, he

received two messages from the Russian leadership and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, which were said to be related to the Middle East peace process and the situation in Lebanon. The Palestinian news agency WAFA, which carried the report this evening, said that 'Arafat and the Russian envoy reviewed the latest developments in the peace process, the stagnation of talks at the 10th round of the Arab-Israeli negotiations, the tour that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is currently undertaking in the Middle East region, and also the outcome of the latest visit to the region by the U.S. peace negotiator.

Editorial Urges Less Focus on Syrian Track

TA0308151293 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Aug 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Track: Core of the Negotiations"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is returning to the region on a new tour amid a widespread media campaign stemming from what is being described as the success of U.S. efforts in arranging a cease-fire, or more accurately, in putting an end to large-scale Israeli attacks on Lebanese territory. The source of this media campaign is not Washington alone but also Israeli circles at various levels.

An analysis of the motives that led Israel to launch its offensive, which inflicted the heaviest financial losses and caused hundreds, if not thousands, of civilian casualties in Lebanon, must definitely be linked to the peace talks and the Israeli perception and concept of the results of those talks and their final outcome. Consequently, the United States was not far from the picture in the Israeli's week-long Israeli operation and did not enter the scene of events unexpectedly on the eve of the announcement of what was described as cease-fire arrangements in Lebanon.

The long-term Israeli operation in Lebanon refocused attention on the Syrian role and track, especially with Damascus' influence on the Iranian Government, which reportedly controls the Hizballah fighters, since Tehran accepted the principle of not firing katyusha rockets on northern Israel. This is considered an Iranian concession that, according to Western media sources, could not have been obtained without Syrian influence.

It is doubtful, however, whether the new interest in the Syrian negotiating track, which has been mainly generated by the Israeli offensive on Lebanon, can lead to real progress in the peace process. This is because such progress depends on a comprehensive attention to all the negotiating tracks, particularly the Palestinian, without downplaying at all the importance of the other ones.

Hence, the United States, the full partner in the talks, should devote its attention to the Palestinian track, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, bearing in mind that UN Security Council Resolution 242 includes all the Arab lands occupied in 1967, without exception.

The question is: Has the time not come to reach agreement on effective executive measures within framework of the peace talks in order to terminate the Israeli occupation and grant the Palestinian people their inalienable rights in response to the demands of the international community and the numerous Security Council resolutions?

Abu-Mazin Hands MK New Draft Document of Principles

TA0308140093 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Aug 93 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The Palestinians have prepared a five-point document as a draft for a declaration of principles. The Palestinian document was handed by Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] to Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah during the latter's visit to Tunis. Following is the content of the document:

1. The source of authority of the two stages—both the interim and the permanent stage—will be UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

2. The territorial jurisdiction will include the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip .

3. It is to be agreed that five controversial issues are to be postponed until the permanent stage: Jerusalem, security, refugees, borders, and settlements. Abu-Mazin made it clear to Darawshah that the agreement must stipulate the issues are only postponed. The Palestinians do not agree that they be ignored in any agreement.

4. The Palestinians are willing to accept all authorities excluding foreign relations and security.

5. A Palestinian council will be elected. This council will have executive and legislative powers within the framework of the authorities undertaken.

Our correspondent notes that the Palestinians agree to postpone the issue of Jerusalem until the permanent stage, on condition that this issue be mentioned in the declaration of principles.

More Details Given on Proposal

JN0308180593 Amman AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 3 Aug 93 p 1

[By Muhammad Mashariqah]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Palestinian sources in Tunis have said that the Palestinian negotiating team in Tunis, led by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, has handed Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah a message to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The message, the text of which AL-MUSTAQBAL obtained,

constitutes the basis for a meeting between officials from both sides. The memorandum is based on the following:

1. The PLO agrees to postpone the discussion of controversial and complicated issues until a delayed stage in October or November next year; that is, at the end of the interim period, which is a three-year period in accordance with the invitation to Madrid. These issues include Jerusalem, security, refugees, and the settlements. The declaration of principles should plainly note that discussion of these issues is postponed, not canceled.

2. The declaration of principles should clearly note that UN Resolution 242 will be applied to all the territories occupied in 1967, in addition to the issues on which agreement is reached to delay discussion at this stage.

3. The PLO believes the declaration of principles should include the limits and powers of the self-rule authority. It should note the readiness to transfer the administrative responsibilities, except the delayed issues.

4. The talks can reach important stages only by raising the level of representation in the talks. This also applies to the Palestinians. In this regard, we propose holding a high-level meeting between officials from the PLO and the Israeli Government. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Delegate on PLO Supremacy, Gaza First

TA0408062993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, adviser to the delegation to the peace talks, by Tzvi Lidar—live]

[Text] [Lidar] What can you say, sir, about the fact that Israelis perceive the Palestinians as a split public?

[Abu-Zayyad] The Israelis are not united on the peace agreement issue either. We are attempting to build a democratic society. There is a Palestinian opposition; there is a camp supporting the process, and there are some who oppose it. These difficulties were forced on us from the beginning of the process. I think that if the negotiations were conducted directly with the PLO, many problems would have been eliminated and many obstacles would have been removed. It would have balanced the entire framework of the process.

[Lidar] Is the PLO acceptable to all the delegation members, all the representatives and organizations in the territories?

[Abu-Zayyad] There is no Palestinian body opposing the PLO or proposing itself as an alternative to the PLO. True, there is a religious current, a part of which does not think the PLO is qualified to give up Palestinian land, but even the religious current does not compete with the PLO or represent an alternative to the PLO. It can be said, therefore, that the PLO is acceptable to the entire Palestinian nation.

[Lidar] When an arrangement is attained, will you be able to control this radical religious current, which will try to torpedo any such an arrangement?

[Abu-Zayyad] I think that when we come to our people with hope, with something concrete in our hands, some achievement, and tell them that they have two options: either remain under continued occupation with continued suffering, or accept a Palestinian state alongside Israel, I think a decisive majority of our people will support the second option. People must be given another option besides occupation and the suffering that comes with occupation.

[Lidar] Well, you have been made an offer—and it looks very serious as far as Israel is concerned—to take Gaza, or even Gaza plus Jericho, first. At least some members of the Israeli Administration speak of Gaza plus. How does that look to you?

[Abu-Zayyad] We have not heard this in the form of a serious proposal yet, not as something serious and substantive that can be discussed. Our stand is that if the Israelis want to be rid of Gaza, to toss it to us saying that Gaza is for the Palestinians and the West Bank is for Israel—as they thought when they withdrew from the Sinai, when they believed they were ceding the Sinai in exchange for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip — if that is what Israel believes, it is wrong. Our stand is as follows: We are ready to consider the Gaza First idea provided it is linked with the West Bank. The expression Gaza and Jericho is merely a symbol of a link between Gaza and the West Bank. If we accept this proposal, we will do so in the framework of the peace process, of negotiations, as part of the things on which the two sides will agree in the course of the peace process and as part of the jointly debated arrangement.

[Lidar] Thank you very much, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad.

Al-Rantisi: No Information on Specifics of Return

JN0408112193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Aug 93 pp 1, 27

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, official spokesman for the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur, by Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpt] ['Abid] There is information that the Palestinian deportees will return in three batches. Is this true?

[Al-Rantisi] We do not know anything about returning the Marj al-Zuhur deportees in three batches, although some news agencies reported that the Red Cross is negotiating with the Israeli occupation authorities over this issue.

We learned that our deportee issue will be presented to the U.S. secretary of state during his current tour of a number of capitals in the region. Our great hope is that

the Arab countries which the U.S. official will visit will strongly demand our safe return to our homes and families.

So far, we have not presented any proposal concerning our return to the homeland. However, we are awaiting the results of Christopher's tour, which we will closely examine, and then strongly and clearly present our views.

I would like to note that there is an agreement between the PLO and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, that the Palestinian delegation which will meet with Christopher, will take up the deportee issue and ask the U.S. official to help close this file.

The issue of returning in three batches will be discussed after knowing the results of Christopher's current tour. [passage omitted]

Algeria

TV Correspondent Gunned Down in Algiers

LD0408104893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Excerpt] National Radio learned today from a reliable source that correspondent Rabah (Zenati) was assassinated yesterday at 1800 in front of his parent's home in Cherarba, Baraki District, in Algiers. Rabah Zenati had been a correspondent for the national television station since 1981. He was father of three children, and was born in 1958. [passage omitted]

'Terrorist' Arrested for Assassination Attempt

LD0308230493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] A statement issued by the security services of Algiers Province said that a terrorist was injured and arrested today in Baraki municipality while he was attempting to assassinate a policeman. The statement affirmed that a group of three terrorists were waiting around the policeman's home in order to assassinate him. Plainclothes policemen became suspicious of the intentions of the gang members and intervened to place them under control and arrested one of them while his two accomplices were able to escape.

It was learned from the National Gendarmerie Command that a terrorist who was involved in the assassination of Karima Belhadj, the clerk at the social affairs services of national security, was killed in the Eucalyptus municipality [Algiers]. The statement added that the name of the terrorist is Aziz Kemal, nicknamed Krimo.

Egypt

Musa Expresses Optimism on Peace Talks Progress

Says Christopher Has 'New Ideas'

NC0408103593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said there are strong possibilities that the Arab-Israeli negotiations will resume in Washington in September.

In a statement to AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on 6 August, Musa said he can confirm that during his current tour of the region, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is carrying a new U.S. paper that could form the basis for the declaration of principles, especially as the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue over this paper is being held in a positive atmosphere that heightens the possibility of achieving this declaration.

The foreign minister added that Christopher is also carrying new ideas about the possibility of starting to implement the transitional stage in the Gaza and Jericho areas, noting that this is acceptable to the Palestinians.

Musa also stressed that the chances are increasing for activating the negotiating efforts with the Lebanese side, which has finalized its views on the working paper presented by the Israeli side.

He went on to say that in light of the talks held between President Husni Mubarak and Christopher, he can assert that Egyptian-U.S. ties have never witnessed any crisis. He added that there are vast, great relations of cooperation between the two countries and mutual appreciation for each country's role in continuing the peace process in the Middle East.

The foreign minister noted that this does not prevent differences in views, because Egypt has its regional outlook that is linked with its role and Arab relations; this makes it difficult to have identical views on some issues.

Comments on Libyan-Western Crisis

NC0308163793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed his belief that there will be positive developments that will help the early resumption of the Middle East peace negotiations.

In statements he made today, Musa said that Egypt supports the efforts of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher as long as there is a peace process based on the principle of land in return for peace and right in return for right.

He added that Egypt has expressed its view of the factors of the peace process and its various tracks and did so in support of the Arab rights and stand and also in support of the peace process that is based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Regarding Egypt's efforts to halt the escalation in the Libyan-Western crisis, the foreign minister said: Egypt is continuing its efforts. We believe that diplomacy must be given a chance and there must be an opportunity for agreement on implementing the Security Council and international legitimacy resolutions. We see no reason for escalation because its consequences will not be good for anyone.

Regarding the U.S. proposals for the peace process, Musa said: These proposals include a number of elements that must be discussed. They have in fact been discussed by us and the Palestinian side. Christopher will discuss them today with the Israeli and Palestinian sides. He added: We expect Christopher to reach an agreement with the two sides on a joint formulation of these proposals that will represent a basis for a declaration of principles on the transitional stage.

On the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, Minister Musa said: This aggression created the feeling that what had happened was in nobody's interest but was against the peace process. This is why the Israeli attack on Lebanon stopped.

The Egyptian foreign minister described the NATO decision to use force against the Serbs if the siege of Sarajevo is not lifted as a sound decision in view of the continued Serbian aggression against Bosnia. He expressed hope that the Security Council would issue a similar decision.

Differences in Egyptian-U.S. Relations Detailed

NC0308191293 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 28 Jul 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Mahmud al-Hadari: "Secrets of Egyptian-U.S. Differences"]

[Text] A high-ranking official has admitted to an Arab minister who recently visited Cairo that "Egypt is coming under unprecedented U.S. pressure." The same official described Egyptian-U.S. relations as undergoing "a muffled crisis" and not simply experiencing "the premonitions" of one. He suggested that there is a possibility for matters to develop in certain ways, but declined to be more specific. The official in question did not cite U.S. contacts with Egyptian opposition figures as a cause for the crisis.

These sudden backroom revelations were made at a time when officials are emphatic that, despite some difference of opinion, relations between Egypt and the United States are good, if not excellent.

Speaking at a high-level meeting, a senior politician has listed over 12 points of disagreement with the United States. Those points are brought up in every Egyptian-U.S. meeting and are expected to surface in the talks with Secretary of State Warren Christopher when he arrives in Cairo on Saturday [31 July]. Christopher will have with him the findings of a study conducted recently by U.S. foreign policy advisers concerning the revision of U.S. relations with countries in this region, particularly Egypt. The study is the first of its kind under the Bill Clinton administration.

Contacts held by U.S. "officials" and some Egyptian parties, particularly the Wafd and the Muslim Brotherhood, have brought Egyptian-U.S. differences closer to the surface. One major point of disagreement concerns Washington's call on the Egyptian Government to take more forceful steps toward democracy.

Over the past 10 months, well-informed sources say, more than 15 meetings involving Egyptian opposition figures, some as senior as deputy party leaders, officials at the Muslim Brotherhood's General Guide's Office, and senior U.S. diplomats, were held at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo.

Reports of the meetings have begun to circulate freely since last April. However, senior Muslim Brotherhood officials admit that the exchanges began years ago. According to some of these officials, the contacts were initiated under former General Guide 'Umar al-Talmasani between 1977 and 1980. But in a recent press interview, a Brotherhood spokesman said that the contacts started six years ago.

Washington has invited six Egyptian opposition figures to meet U.S. State Department officials and advisers of President Clinton and former President Bush.

U.S. officials tried initially to deny such reports. But after some Egyptian opposition figures admitted the meetings, Washington, through its ambassador in Cairo, told Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials that such meetings should not be a cause of worry for the Egyptian Government.

There are blocs and groups in the Egyptian political mainst eam and the United States is dealing with them on the basis that they are forces that reflect trends which the United States likes to be acquainted with. It is monitoring them through meetings with representatives of these trends in order to protect U.S. strategic interests, not only in Egypt, but also in the region.

That was not the only surprise for the government. It was accompanied by information that t. e U.S. State Department is "compelled" to deal with all Egyptian political movements as long as they are present on the Egyptian political street.

Also, the points of disagreement between the regime and the United States were growing and multiplying in various directions. Some of them were U.S. demands rejected by Egypt. Others were Egyptian demands that did not get clear U.S. replies. This is in addition to the differences in view on Egyptian stands vis-a-vis international and regional events and to U.S. pressures on Egypt in favor of Israel.

These differences can be summed up as follows:

—Differences over the peace talks between the Arab parties and Israel. Egypt has come to the view that the U.S. stand in general is pro-Israeli and not neutral.

—U.S. objection to the activation of the Egyptian role in the efforts to bring about an Arab reconciliation.

—Washington's reservations about the signs of Egyptian-Sudanese rapprochement.

—Egypt's lack of support for the recent missile attacks on Baghdad.

—Differences over the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Egypt's refusal to increase its involvement in the UN forces.

—Different views of the Somali issue and its developments.

—The widening gap between the two countries' stands on terrorism, the issue of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, and his links with the CIA.

—Egypt's complaint about the U.S. intelligence services' activities in the country, which are harming national security, and the failure of these services to give any information to Egypt, which has rendered various services.

—The U.S. protest over Egypt's refusal to sign the chemical weapons nonproliferation treaty and its leadership of the Arab world in refusing to sign it.

—Washington's pressure on Egypt to sign the conventional weapons nonproliferation treaty. Egypt is refusing to sign it and is linking its agreement to Israel's signing of the nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty.

—The U.S. reservation about the government's demand to deposit the "cash grant" in the bank so as to benefit from the interest on it before withdrawal. It appears that this reservation is about to become a rejection while Israel enjoys this privilege.

—The inclination of the U.S. AID agency to link the sector-by-sector assistance to Egypt's implementation of the IMF program, contrary to what happens with Israel.

This is not a complete list of the differences, which are increasing daily, particularly since President Husni Mubarak's recent visit to Washington and his first meeting with Clinton, which was very difficult.

But informed sources said that the signs of the differences between Egypt and the United States go back still further than this. They noted in particular a report received by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry about "the action plan in the Islamic region" drawn up by the U.S. National Security Council in March 1991. Regarding Egypt, the report said the following: "Though the present government has shown a correct and an acceptable direction, yet it cannot control the Egyptian street and therefore it has become necessary to present new faces. Freedom of expression was withdrawn during the rules of 'Abd-al-Nasir and al-Sadat and this had negative effects on democracy. Democracy in Egypt should now be given an opportunity so that the people can carry out their activities freely. This is the way to crush the fundamentalists."

That was the starting point of the Egyptian-U.S. differences which appear to be continuing. There are other aspects that have not emerged yet.

Editorial Supports U.S. Military Strike Against Serbs

NC0408073493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR comments on an announcement by U.S. President Bill Clinton that Washington has developed a military plan to launch a strike against the Serb troops to prevent them from seizing the Bosnian capital Sarajevo. The paper notes that Clinton seeks to persuade his NATO allies to take part in the operation to avoid launching a unilateral American action in the region.

AL-AKHBAR adds that the lack of French and British enthusiasm for military intervention is nothing new for European states, which contrive to avert military intervention against the Serbs to give them the opportunity to seize all Bosnian lands in alliance with the Croats.

The paper believes that the hateful racist stance adopted by the French and British Governments and other European states shows that these governments are reassured that the Arab and Islamic stance will remain passive over the massacres that annihilate Bosnian Muslims. The paper notes in this context that economic and trade relations are being maintained among Arab states and those countries that unmasked their ugly faces. Had these states encountered a united Arab and Islamic position that could have a real bearing on their economy, they would have hesitated to adopt these shameful stances.

AL-AKHBAR says the game of consenting to use European power against Serb gangs to prevent them from keeping up their aggression against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to secure the access of humanitarian aid to besieged towns and villages still goes on under the excuse that some states refuse to take part in the process. The same drama is being repeated in the UN Security Council, which refuses to permit the use of force to implement its resolutions on the Serb aggression, although it rushes to strike at Iraq and Somalia.

The editorial concludes by expressing the hope that America will maintain its new position and act as a superpower that shoulders its international responsibility.

Campaign To Arrest Terrorists Reported

NC0308184193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA)—Security forces have launched intensive security campaigns in Cairo, al-Jizah, and al-Qalyubiyah to arrest several terrorist fugitives. This followed information given by the terrorist Mustafa 'Awni whom the police arrested in al-Amiriyah area with the help of the citizens yesterday.

The security forces arrested several suspects believed to have links to the terrorist Mustafa 'Awni and to another terrorist who was in his company yesterday but managed to escape the police.

The security forces combed the area and surrounding districts where the second suspect might be hiding.

Residents of al-Amiriyah area helped the security forces to arrest the terrorist Mustafa 'Awni last night. He is considered a dangerous terrorist who participated in

several recent terrorist operations including the unsuccessful operation in Cairo's Zaynuhum area.

Deciphered Codes Reveal New Muslim Brotherhood Groups

NC0309183493 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 28 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by Tharwat Shalabi]

[Text] An official of the Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office has told AL-AHALI that codes revealing the contents of computer disks seized with the suspects held in connection with the Salsabil organization case have been deciphered, revealing the identities of leading Muslim Brotherhood figures. The organization is officially disbanded.

The official said that the retrieved data revealed the names of more than 300 leading Muslim Brotherhood members. Some of these reside abroad and are financing the organization.

He added that the Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office indicted 80 suspects, 20 of whom are in custody, on charges of joining a clandestine organization that calls for resisting the ruling regime's basic principles.

State security services have uncovered four new groups of the Muslim Brotherhood's international organization operating in Cairo, Alexandria, and al-Mansurah. The Prosecutor's Office has decided to include these new groups in the Salsabil case.

Investigations have shown that the suspects established statistics and data centers and gathered information in a way that is detrimental to national security. It should be noted that the first Salsabil group was also accused of carrying out such activity.

The list of defendants includes a professor of medical laboratory science at al-Azhar University, the owner of an advertising firm, a computer expert, and a lecturer at Cairo University's School of Architecture.

The Prosecutor's Office renewed the remand of several Salsabil suspects on Monday [26 July] after interrogating them in the presence of their lawyer, Sayyid Jadallah.

Investigations of this case are conducted with the knowledge of chief prosecutors Hisham Hammudah, Usamah Qandil, 'Ali al-Hawari, and Yasir al-Rifa'i and under the supervision of Public Attorney Muhsin Mabruk and Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud, general supervisor of the Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office.

Newspaper Seized for Publishing Islamist Statement

NC0408074193 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 31 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] The security agencies yesterday confiscated Friday's [30 July] edition of the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH [also published in Cairo], which printed on its first page a statement by the group "Those Delivered From the Fire" [Jama'at al-Najun Min al-Nar].

In the statement, the group threatened to take revenge on the Egyptian Government if the defendants Majdi al-Safti and 'Abdallah Abu-al-'Ula are severely punished.

The Egyptian Government earlier confiscated an issue of AL-HAYAH because it published an interview with al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] leader Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman.

Sudan

Radio Urges Further Negotiations With IMF

EA0308125093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Sudan began dealing with the IMF in 1957; loans and assistance were provided until debts began to pile up. In 1984 the IMF stopped giving any loans to Sudan. The situation grew worse in 1986 during the period of the transitional government, when the Council of Ministers rejected the agreement signed by the then-minister of finance. This was followed by the proposal to freeze Sudan's membership. However, consultations continued and went beyond the narrow inner circle. In 1990, an IMF delegation expressed its admiration for the progress and growth of the Sudanese economy and for the tripartite program for economic salvation, which has made great progress.

Sudan managed to restructure its economy and to halt its enormous financial deterioration. In 1991-1992 its economy grew by 11.3 percent, the highest growth average in the world. This spurred the IMF to reconsider assistance for Sudan. It placed Sudan's programs under scrutiny, revealing an earnest spirit and extensive progress in reforms, according to the options available to Sudan and the priorities and concerns of the government.

However, sudden developments emerged as far as the IMF's position was concerned. It demanded that Sudan pay $70 million a month to confirm its good intentions and to ensure Sudan's continuing membership. This is impossible under Sudan's present conditions for a number of reasons, which include the decline in Sudanese exports, the war, the cost of vital projects designed to bring prosperity to the people, and other world changes.

Sudan tried to confirm its good intentions by paying monthly sums which were in keeping with its available resources. Sudan also implemented a harsh economic program, going beyond the usual conditions of the IMF, but in such a way as to achieve results. The program proved its success and effectiveness because of the public's response and its willingness to endure suffering in order to raise output, production, and efficiency. A number of establishments and departments regained

efficiency, even though they had suffered from earlier losses. A number of establishments were sold under a realistic and effective privatization program.

In spite of all this, the IMF has continued to exert pressure on Sudan and has threatened to suspend its membership. This is a measure which would benefit neither the IMF nor Sudan, since one of the results would be loss of Sudan's debts and the exclusion of Sudan from international transactions, a measure that has never been applied to any other state before. Indeed there are some states which have preferred to withdraw their membership; many others have rejected the IMF's decisions.

The conclusion we should reach as a result of this review is that the decision to suspend Sudan's membership is not supported by logic or by economic circumstances. Rather, it reflects the spirit of the new world order, the nature of the present phase of history, the despotism of certain regimes, and attempts to blockade the Third World.

The IMF is more of a political tool than a financial institution because the European countries and the United States represent more than 64 percent of the Fund's membership while the Arab countries and Latin America represent only 17 percent. However, what is required now is further consultations and negotiations between Sudan and the IMF. We say this based on the logic dictated by common interests and based on current realities and developments. Cooperation and joint coordination are the foundations for beginning more cooperation.

Foreign Minister Denies Weapons Sent to Hungary

EA0308184593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] The foreign minister, Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, has denied reports that Sudan has sent arms to Hungary. Speaking at the Foreign Ministry today, he said that these reports were rumors being spread as part of the Zionist propaganda campaign.

Dr. Abu-Salih then turned to his recent meeting in Cairo with his Egyptian counterpart, 'Amr Musa, stressing that this meeting had been of the greatest importance in bringing the views of the two countries closer together. He announced that the next meeting would be held in Khartoum after consulting with the Egyptian minister and after setting a date.

His Excellency referred to the emergency meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab states, held recently in Damascus, saying it had been a most important meeting because it was characterized by responsibility and the clear expression of views. He said the participants had adopted a resolution on halting the war in Lebanon and on allowing citizens to return to their villages; this had compelled the Israeli enemy to halt its attacks on southern Lebanon.

On the subject of the UN envoy to Sudan, Dr. Abu-Salih said Sudan had expressed reservations because it was not certain about the tasks and competencies of the envoy. He stressed that this matter was on its way to being resolved, since it had been ascertained that the mission of the special envoy did not include any political aims.

Kuwait

Rumors of Bribes for UK Arms Deal Denied

LD0308192293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1839 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Kuwait, 3 Aug, KUNA—Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim denied rumors that certain parties received commissions in exchange for passing the deal for the British "Warrior" armoured vehicles and for passing similar contracts.

The minister stated that these rumors and accusations are devoid of truth. In a statement to journalists today, the defense minister clarified that the Defense Ministry was totally committed to the text and spirit of the ministerial decree issued in 1972, which prohibits ratifying contracts and purchase deals where private benefits or advantages of any kind are received. Shaykh 'Ali al-Salim stressed that the ministry operates under these constraints; proof of that is that purchase agreement contracts require that they contain the contents of the previously mentioned ministerial decree.

The minister ended his statement by saying: "He who makes such accusations and has such doubts must be precise and honest in what he says."

Border Security Belt Construction Continues

PM0408092293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Aug 93 p 2

[Nasir al-Mutayri report: "Official Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Kuwait Continues Construction of Border Belt"]

[Text] An authoritative source from the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers announced yesterday that work on the border security belt project is continuing. He pointed out that great headway has been made in digging the border trench. By yesterday a 75 km trench had been dug.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the sources said that Kuwait's security belt project consists of several phases. The first, the digging of the trench and sand barrier, has begun. The second phase calls for installing a technological security system along the Kuwait-Iraq border, which was defined by the United Nations. The belt extends for 200 km, from the "al-'Awja Triangle" to the west, to the north and northeast of Kuwait. The source said that there is a big working force supplied with equipment and capabilities which will help it to complete the digging in 90 days.

The source indicated that the border belt is not for defense, as has been wrongly understood. The basic aim of the project is to prevent illegal entry by Iraqi infiltrators and to avert the threats they are posing to Kuwait's security, attested to by crimes many of these people have recently committed. The source said that the security border will provide security for inhabitants of the northern farms in Kuwait and will enable them to maintain their investments there.

The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry had decided to set up five observation towers at Kuwait's northern posts on the border with Iraq, in addition to six fixed inspection points along the Kuwaiti border, to maintain Kuwait's security border.

Efforts to protect border security are not limited to the government. There are untiring efforts to propose strict security measures, like putting intensive security commands on the border. Members of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Interior and Defense Committee made a helicopter tour of the border, inspected northern border positions, acquainted themselves with the conditions of the Kuwaiti forces there, and met with the UNIKOM [United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission] force assigned to watch the Kuwait-Iraq border.

Saddam Chairs Meeting of State, Military Officials

JN0308142393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has presided over a meeting attended by Staff General 'Ali Hasan al- Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister; Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, interior minister; and several military commanders and state officials.

Economic Talks With Russian Delegation Begin 3 Aug

JN0308155893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—Economic, trade, and technical talks between the Republic of Iraq and the Russian Federation opened at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals this morning. The talks will last four days.

The Iraqi side was led by 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid Jasim, senior under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, while the Russian side was led by Oleg Davydov, first deputy minister of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations.

The Iraqi side to the talks included representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the ministries of Oil, Industry and Minerals, Transport, Agriculture, Trade, the Military Industrialization Organization, and the Iraqi Central Bank. The Russian side included officials of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and several Russian establishments.

'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed Iraq's desire to develop the longstanding relations of friendship and cooperation in all fields with the Russian Federation.

He added that Iraq and Russia now have a good opportunity to develop these relations, noting that the friendly Russian delegation's visit to Iraq is in line with previous bilateral agreements to serve the interests of the two countries and their friendly peoples.

Oleg Davydov emphasized his country's eagerness to expand its trade links with Iraq, noting the longstanding economic relations between Iraq and Russia.

He said that despite its short stay in Iraq, the Russian delegation has seen Iraq's economic capabilities and the fast-paced reconstruction drive launched by the Iraqis.

Davydov expressed his country's desire to enhance cooperation with Iraq, noting that the delegation's visit to Iraq underlines Russia's concern to establish a legal, legitimate foundation to develop such cooperation. He said it is time to develop relations between the two countries and to draft a joint document for economic, trade, and technical cooperation.

The two sides will discuss several issues pertaining to economic, trade, and technical cooperation and ways of enhancing it in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

The Russian delegation, led by Oleg Davydov, arrived in Baghdad last night on a visit lasting several days to promote economic, trade, and technical relations with Iraq.

Commercial Relations Discussed

JN0308165593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met today with Oleg Davydov, first deputy minister of Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, and his delegation. The minister discussed the economic problems and the shortage in food and medicines from which the Iraqi people suffer, caused by the continued unjust economic siege imposed on the Iraqi people by the United States and its Western allies.

He highlighted the leadership's monthly efforts using ration cards to secure food for all those living in Iraq. This has been in effect for three years. He said the state provides all inhabitants of Iraq—Arabs, foreigners, and Iraqis—with their rations of food, without discrimination.

Muhammad Mahdi Salih emphasized Iraq's desire to improve and develop commercial relations with Russia in a manner that serves the interests of the two friendly peoples in all fields.

Oleg Davydov emphasized the desire of the Russian people to resume economic and commercial relations with Iraq in a manner that serves the interests of the two friendly peoples by finding various ways and formulas for this cooperation.

In another development, Oleg Davydov, Muhammad Mahdi Salih, and the members of the friendly Russian delegation visited the exhibition that documents the results of the 30-state aggression on Iraq's commercial establishments. The Russian delegation learned about the magnitude of the destruction of commercial projects by the 30-state aggression and the damage inflicted on civilian facilities, which is banned by international law during wars between countries.

Bomb Explodes Near UN Post in Dahuk

NC0308182093 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] A timed TNT bomb planted by the regime's agents near a UN post in Dahuk city exploded in the night of Monday to Tuesday. The explosion caused only minor damage.

Kurdish Organization Joins Talabani's PUK

NC0308200993 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] The leadership of the Banner of the Revolution [Tanzim Rayat al-Thawrah] Organization has declared it is merging its organizations with those of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK].

This came in a statement issued by the organization's leadership yesterday in which it declared its organizational unity with the PUK.

This step came following the meetings held between the organization's leaders and PUK secretary general brother Jalal Talabani and the PUK Political Bureau members.

More Kurdish Villages Come Under Iranian Shelling

NC0308182193 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] The hostile Iranian forces shelled the villages of the Rami area in al-Sulaymaniyah with Katyushas on the night of 31 July- 1 August. The barbaric shelling wounded two citizens and caused damage to the citizens' possessions and cattle. The aggressive shelling also ignited fires in the farms and forests causing a large number of citizens to flee the area.

The correspondent of the Kurdistan [word indistinct] in the border town of Rami reported that no less than 120 Katyushas rockets fell on the area.

The correspondent of the same newspaper in the Shamanah area in the Irbil governorate also reported that the Iranian artillery launched a concentrated shelling on the villages of Maranah, (Ayni), (Shkan), (Midinam), Sakran, Bandayzan, (Shaykh Wathman), Waza, and [word indistinct]. One citizen in Sakran was wounded and citizens' farms and possessions suffered heavy damages.

The Iranian artillery also continued their attacks on the Kurdish territories and people on Monday afternoon and last night. The Iranian forces heavily shelled the outskirts of the villages of Zinawah Miri, Rayat, (Nakadrijan), and [word indistinct] in the Guman district. No casualties were reported.

Christopher Meets With Palestinian Delegation

'Ashrawi: Talks' Deadlock Discussed

JN0308164393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Report by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi, from the "With the Events" program; passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and a number of Palestinian personalities, led by Faysal al-Husayni, met for approximately two hours at the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem. Discussions during this meeting, which came amid the criticism and the circumstances that recently took place in the region, focused on the issues obstructing the resumption of the peace process and the causes of the deadlock in the bilateral talks.

After the talks, the U.S. secretary said the meeting was good. He added that several important issues were discussed despite the prevailing circumstances in the region. He said that the two sides will meet again Thursday [5 August] to resume the talks on the various issues.

"We had good discussions today. We covered a great many issues in two hours. Despite the difficult circumstances, I would say that we've refocused the discussions. We'll be getting together again on Thursday for further discussions. I don't really have anything more useful to say than that at the present time."

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian side, at a news conference held at the headquarters of the Palestinian delegation in East Jerusalem, said the meeting was frank and focused on the deadlock in the bilateral talks.

"The talks were frank and dealt with the causes of not achieving any progress in this track. We discussed various methods to overcome the obstacles in an attempt to view the process in a new way with regard to the final solution and to the Madrid framework. We have not reached any agreement, but we will meet again on Thursday."

With regard to the Palestinian response to the document of the joint declaration of principles presented by the U.S. Administration, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said:

"He spoke about the need for conveying the Palestinian view with regard to the declaration of principles. We informed them that we presented to them the formula of territorial jurisdiction, Jerusalem, and settlements in the previous meetings and that we are awaiting the response. Consequently, there is nothing to accept or reject, because we want them to modify their stands and to respond to the Palestinian proposals, which are still firm and existent."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher asked the Palestinian side to present new proposals to overcome the obstacles to the peace process.

"He did not present any new resolutions. But, he asked us to present proposals that we believe can overcome the obstacles and end the deadlock in the talks. We presented several general proposals, and he asked us to present to him studied proposals to reconsider these issues."

Meeting Called 'Candid'

JN0308183193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Statement by spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi following a meeting by the Palestinian negotiating delegation with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Jerusalem on 3 August; in English with Arabic subtitles—recorded]

[Text] This meeting came in the aftermath of Lebanon and the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon. It also came in the wake of a prolonged stalemate, or deadlock, in the negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track. We felt that the substantive issues still continue to be the major stumbling block. We had a very candid meeting in which we discussed the reasons for the deadlock and in which we discussed ways of trying to overcome the impasse. Among these ways, we're looking into permanent status issues, looking into the Madrid framework, trying to see how that can be amended, and trying to be a bit more creative in looking for solutions.

Nothing was agreed upon yet. The only issue is that we will be meeting on Thursday [3 August] to pursue matters further.

Confederation 'Better Approach'

JN0408085093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Aug 93 pp 1,10

["Combined agency dispatches"]

[Excerpt] Occupied Jerusalem—Israelis and Palestinians should negotiate a Palestinian confederation with Jordan rather than autonomy in the occupied territories in order to break the deadlock in the Middle East peace talks, a Palestinian spokeswoman said Tuesday [3 August].

"I think confederation is a much better approach because then you can talk about an objective or goal and you can draw a road map toward that goal," said Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian negotiating team, after six delegates met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Both Mr. Christopher and Dr. 'Ashrawi referred to the "difficult" circumstances of the meeting. It came after Israel's largest assault on Lebanon since its 1982 invasion, as well as lack of progress 21 months after the peace talks started in Madrid.

After the two-hour meeting at the U.S. consulate in East Jerusalem, Mr. Christopher called the discussions good, but would not say more.

Dr. 'Ashrawi also said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will consider taking control of a small area of the occupied territories as a first step towards breaking the Middle East deadlock.

"The PLO is willing to look into the Gaza first and Jericho first option as a beginning of the permanent status (in the occupied territories)," she said. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Ashrawi said the Americans did not present any new proposals, but that Mr. Christopher asked the Palestinians to make suggestions on how to overcome the deadlock.

She said the Palestinians hoped to come up with detailed plans by Thursday, when the delegation is scheduled to meet Mr. Christopher again.

Earlier, Mr. Peres said Israel was ready to break the negotiating deadlock by giving Palestinians autonomy in the Gaza Strip, and to consider Palestinian demands to include Jericho. Another Israeli proposal is "early empowerment," or letting Palestinians take immediate control of some administrative functions.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said the Palestinians preferred confederation over autonomy in Gaza first, even if it included Jericho, because the latter left too much room for twisiting the final result.

"If we talk about early empowerment, it means you are already fragmenting the peace process. You are fragmenting the territorial aspects of the peace process, the time frame as well as the authority," she said.

She said the Palestinians had already rejected the idea of early empowerment as unworkable, but might weigh it again under different circumstances.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said Jerusalem remained a central concern." [passage omitted]

Gaza, Jericho Transfer Discussed

JN0308184193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah]

[Text] A Palestinian source has noted that the American and Palestinian sides have agreed to expand the contents of the declaration of principles to include details of a proposal to transfer power in Gaza and Jericho, final status, and confederation with Jordan.

This agreement was reached during the meeting held at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem today between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. The source said Christopher had asked for a comprehensive Palestinian response before his Mideast tour to the U.S. paper presented to the Palestinians at the end of the 10th round.

Sources close to the Palestinian delegation said the U.S. side expressed readiness to listen to new Palestinian ideas. Christopher considered Palestinian coordination with Jordan an important development, noting that the United States is interested in the current Palestinian course.

Talks at the meeting dealt with the issues of Jerusalem, territorial jurisdiction, and settlements in the occupied territory. The two-hour meeting was boycotted by Chief Palestinian Delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who was expressing his resentment of the U.S. stand on the background of the Israeli attack on Lebanon and the impasse in the talks.

The two sides will hold another meeting on Thursday [5 August] following Christopher's visit to Syria.

Sources Detail Rabin Reaction to 3 Aug Meetings

TA0408084893

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 4 August carries several reports rounding up the meetings U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held in Israel on 3 August. A report on pages A1 and A10 by Hemi Shalev and news agencies says that "referring to Christopher's expected meetings in Damascus today, several senior Israeli figures said last night that 'today is the moment of truth in the political process.'" The report adds "Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that although Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin did not explicitly speak of an Israeli willingness to fully withdraw from the Golan Heights, he did restate his commitment to the formula of 'scope of withdrawal equalling the scope of peace.'

"Rabin told Christopher that Israel will show maximum flexibility, if its demands for full peace and appropriate security arrangements are met. The Americans believe that this signals that, eventually and under the appropriate conditions, the prime minister will agree to support a full withdrawal.

"Foreign Ministry sources said last night that Christopher intends to present al-Asad with 'theoretical questions' regarding his willingness to establish full peace in return for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and his readiness to make partial arrangements, based on partial withdrawal and partial thawing of relations with Israel."

The report adds that "speaking with President 'Ezer Weizman yesterday, Christopher said that President Clinton is showing a lot of interest in the Middle East process, and that he may get personally involved in the developments in the very near future. Political sources in Jerusalem believe that Christopher was hinting at a Clinton willingness to lead a move toward dialogue between the regional leaders, if the current Christopher visit yields results."

The report goes on to say that "discussing the negotiations with the Palestinians, Rabin did not express a clear stand regarding the formula of 'Gaza Plus,' which is being currently discussed, and avoided approving or

ruling out the idea of implementing the interim arrangement in Gaza and Jericho. Rabin said that he would be willing to discuss the idea of 'Gaza First,' if an agreement of principles with the Palestinians is achieved."

A page A3 report by Hemi Shalev in the same HA'ARETZ edition adds: "Sources at the prime minister's bureau noted that Rabin refuses to support the idea of 'Gaza First' at this time because he feels that the Palestinians tend to take every stand Israel accepts and add demands to it. In his conversations yesterday, Rabin again complained about the instability of the Palestinian delegation and its inability to make decisions."

This report further says that Rabin told Christopher and his team that "the understandings reached in Lebanon following Operation Accountability will serve as a practical test for the observation of agreements in the region.

"In a meeting in his office yesterday, upon the opening of Christopher's visit, Rabin said that if the Lebanese understanding holds, Israel will feel more confident that agreements can be made on a more comprehensive political scale. Israel, he said, is always asked to make 'real concessions in return for words,' and the observation of the Lebanon understanding would be an important test of the value of these words. For Israel, he said, observing the understandings is practically and psychologically significant."

A report by Shim'on Schiffer on pages 1 and 19 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 4 August adds: "Speaking to YEDI'OT AHARONOT last night, Prime Minister Rabin said that, in his conversation with Christopher, he refused to elaborate on the scope of the withdrawal Israel is willing to make on the Golan Heights.

"'I wish to learn the Syrian opinion about establishing peace with us, and I hope that when Christopher returns this evening, we will know more,' Rabin said.

"Referring to the Palestinian stands in the talks, the prime minister told YEDI'OT AHARONOT that Christopher and his team now have 'a clear and grim' picture of the Palestinian situation. According to Rabin, the Palestinians are not negotiating because PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat prevents them from doing so in order to force the Americans to open a direct dialogue with him."

Syrian Angle of Meetings Detailed

TA0308190293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Sukenik] [passage omitted] It is the second time that Warren Christopher has visited here in six months. Last week he held many phone conversations with Yitzhaq Rabin, especially during the night. Now, when the two are satisfied with the conclusion of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in southern Lebanon, they are trying to use the understanding achieved with Lebanon and Syria as a springboard for the promotion of the peace process.

In theory, the negotiations with Syria are currently a preferred possibility for advancement, and the Israeli and U.S. teams find various signs for the Syrian desire to make progress. Still, it seems that in the tete-a-tete meeting with Christopher, Rabin did not give the answer which Hafiz al-Asad is expecting, namely: Yes, Israel will withdraw from the entire Golan Heights in return for full peace.

[Rabinovich] The next move is a move that should take place in Damascus. If it takes place during this round of meetings with the secretary of state, all the better. If it happens later, this will not be as good, but will still be fine. Only when we understand that Syria is a partner for true peace and within a reasonable period of time will it be possible to think of real progress on this track.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1730 GMT on 3 August adds: "A senior source in Secretary of State Warren Christopher's party in Jerusalem said this evening that a long way still needs to be covered before any breakthrough is achieved in the negotiations." Also: "The Americans assess that the Syrians will be unable to make progress in the negotiations without progress on the Palestinian track. On Thursday [5 August], the Palestinians are slated to submit to Christopher a position paper after consulting with the Tunis PLO. Secretary Christopher will relay a message from Rabin to al-Asad, whereby the understandings reached about the fighting in Lebanon are a test for the credibility of the Arab side toward the continuation of the peace negotiations."]

Rubinstein Reviews Status of Palestinian Track

TA0308170993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the delegation to talks with the Palestinians, by Dov Gilhar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Gilhar] A senior Jerusalem source estimated yesterday that the Americans had lost confidence in the Palestinians, and efforts were being made to progress on the Israeli-Syrian track. Do you share the view that the Israeli-Palestinian track has become the least promising compared to the other tracks now?

[Rubinstein] We do not know. Israel's basic approach is to try to promote peace on every possible track, whether on the Syrian or another track. If there is a chance for progress with the Syrians we will surely try to follow it up, with U.S. aid if necessary. This will happen tomorrow, in fact, when the U.S. secretary of state leaves for Damascus. The momentum created in the wake of the visit by the Ross delegation here a month ago and in

the wake of the contacts held over the Lebanese operation last week requires a careful check of the Syrian-Israeli track. This clearly does not push the Palestinian issue aside. We and the Americans are both continuing efforts in this direction.

[Dan] Do you know of any progress with the Palestinians?

[Rubinstein] Today?

[Dan] Yes.

[Rubinstein] I do not know yet, since I have no details about the secretary of state's meeting with them. Still, in the meeting at the prime minister's this morning, both in the talks with the prime minister and within the working teams, the discussion centered on ways of trying to promote the Israeli-Palestinian track, including a check into the possibility of an early transfer of powers—transfer of many functional powers from the Civil Administration to the Palestinians now—in order to give a momentum to the negotiations, to allow the Palestinians to run issues such as education, health, labor, social welfare, tourism and possibly others, if they so wish, although they have not expressed the desire to do so as yet. We also spoke of a declaration of principles which can lead to the implementation of the Gaza First notion, again, if the other side so desires. I do not know yet what the Americans raised today. [passage omitted]

[Gilhar] Elyaqim Rubinstein, the absence of Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi from the meeting with Christopher today—do you interpret this as an expression of disagreements among the delegation members, or is it, rather, a Palestinian attempt to show that although they cooperate in the peace talks, they are not too eager to do so in view of the current situation, and if the situation does not change, then this minimum eagerness will dissipate too?

[Rubinstein] I do not interpret this as disagreements. In general, I do not want to engage in interpretations about the other side. Our duty rather, is to negotiate and try to convince them of our positions. As for eagerness, as with anything else in life, the question in these negotiations is the alternative: Do the Palestinians prefer the alternative of the current situation? I assume not. Today, the State of Israel has very concrete proposals as to how the Palestinians can have their own authorities and manage the affairs of the Palestinian population. They have to make up their minds. The opportunity is on the table, and the decision on using it is theirs. [passage omitted]

Beilin: Syrian, Palestinian Tracks Central

TA0408061793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Tzvi Lidar—live]

[Text] [Lidar] We hear that Israel now views the Syrian track as the main one and that hopes are pinned on it. The Syrians, however, are uttering tough words. Where are we headed?

[Beilin] First of all, I do not think we can say the Syrian track is the only one. We are constantly preoccupied with all the tracks, and the central tracks are the Syrian and the Palestinian. I do not believe we will be able to work along one of them exclusively. A link between them will always be necessary. If both are resolved, a solution will be possible on all four tracks, including the Jordanian and the Lebanese.

As for public utterances, the Syrian pronouncements have undoubtedly undergone a significant change. For instance, al-Asad's recent remarks to his army that a campaign for peace has been launched, which is no easier than a campaign in a war. Remarks of this kind have never been heard in Syria, and they are definitely a source of encouragement. I believe that what is going on there is some kind of a drive to educate the Syrian public toward possible peace with Israel, along with strident remarks to the effect that they will not give in, and so forth. Despite that, the Syrian tune has definitely undergone a change, and this change is not negligible at all.

[Lidar] But we hear in the meantime that the Americans are leaving Israel for Syria very encouraged, viewing Israel as a serious partner. According to sources, they understand that Israel is prepared for full withdrawal from the Golan. Is their conviction founded?

[Beilin] No, I do not think that in their talks here yesterday the Americans heard an Israeli announcement of its readiness to effect full withdrawal. Israel has not changed its stand, but it has definitely changed its policy to a great extent since last year. Israel is now prepared to withdraw on the Golan, and it is prepared to wage relentless, prolonged, complex negotiations. They can be definitely encouraged by our willingness to march toward peace, to pay the price, as well as by our deep commitment to peace, but definitely not by our readiness for full withdrawal from the Golan. No one here has told them any such thing.

[Lidar] Does not the phrase we hear in Israel—that the span of withdrawal will match the span of peace—mean that if there is full peace, there will be full withdrawal?

[Beilin] This is a key phrase, and I think this is one of the things that can give them grounds for encouragement and a feeling that there is a chance to attain an understanding within a not too long period.

[Lidar] With your permission, sir, I would like to move on to the Palestinian track, which seems to be somewhat barren these days. Are we now offering them Gaza plus Jericho?

[Beilin] No. This Gaza proposal, or rather their request to receive Gaza plus Jericho, was made outside the negotiations. The formal negotiations in Washington did

not deal with these issues; these issues are raised informally with the Americans all the time. The idea behind this is to try to introduce content into the interim stage in view of the difficulty of solving the issues of council election, autonomy, and other issues with which we have been dealing. The interim period undoubtedly presents a difficulty, because we have realized that an agreement on the nature of the interim period is no easier to attain than one on the nature of the permanent arrangement. That is the reason for their and our informally raising several ideas, including Gaza First—or the Gaza and Jericho First, which is their version. In my view, this idea is at its inception. If it gains importance, more debates and negotiations will be necessary, and there have been none so far.

[Lidar] And to conclude, sir, do you think the current Palestinian delegation is a partner for negotiations? Have not Israeli sources been contending all along that this delegation is incapable of making decisions?

[Beilin] I think they are a partner. We know very well whose instructions they follow, and we are aware of the difficulties they face inside their delegation. I do not think any other delegation is more of a partner. We should take into consideration the Palestinians' unique situation: They are not a state, they are not a government, and negotiations are much more difficult for them than for Jordan, Syria, and even Lebanon. Until a solution of the Palestinian issue is attained, therefore, all negotiations with the Palestinians will be more complicated, more difficult than with the Arab countries.

[Lidar] Thank you very much, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

Identity of Rabin Envoy to PLO Disclosed

TA0408105393 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Aug 93 p 3

[Report by Amnon Barzilay: "HADASHOT Exposes the PLO-Tunis-Israel Go-Between"]

[Excerpt] The mysterious envoy who shuttled between the PLO-Tunis leadership and Jerusalem, whose existence Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have denied, is Steve Cohen, a Canadian citizen who is very close to Peres and his deputy, Dr. Yosi Beilin.

Cohen has close ties with senior officials in the U.S. Administration, White House, State Department, and Congress. Among his other functions, Cohen is adviser to the Canadian Government at the working group on refugee affairs within the multilateral peace talks framework.

Cohen has extensive ties in Arab countries. He is close to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and other senior Egyptian officials; he has forged personal ties with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. He has made several visits to Jordan and held personal conversations with King Husayn. He has close ties with the Saudi Royal House, and he addresses Prince Bandar, the Saudi ambassador to the United States, with the term "brother." Cohen is personally acquainted with Yasir 'Arafat, and he often meets with him and with other PLO leadership members.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was the man who apparently persuaded Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to use Steve Cohen's services and his connections in the Arab world. The two acknowledged the numerous advantages Cohen's advice could yield in the sensitive political negotiations. It is believed that Rabin agreed to benefit from Cohen's assistance without any strings attached, making certain that the contacts are informal and that Steve Cohen does not directly represent the Israeli Government.

Some time ago, Cohen met with Rabin, and it was to him that Rabin was referring when he noted recently that there was an active go- between [metavekh] between Israel and the PLO. Rabin used the term "go-between" when referring to Cohen's activity, although no one had empowered him to conduct Israeli-PLO negotiations. Nevertheless, a senior political element has said recently that "Steve has no problem meeting Peres or Rabin whenever he wishes."

When asked recently by an Israeli political element about his occupation, Cohen replied: "It is my job to prepare the ground for peace." Foreign Ministry elements prefer to define Cohen's job as "a door opener." In a telephone conversation with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin last week, Cohen reported on his contacts with the PLO-Tunis leadership. He expressed great optimism regarding the prospects of attaining significant progress in the talks, although he noted that much depended on the U.S. Administration's determination. [passage omitted]

Ben-Eli'ezer: No Concession Made in South Lebanon

TA0308145493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Report by Menahem Horowitz—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Horowitz] Minister Ben-Eli'ezer, who toured Qiryat Shemona this morning, addressed himself to various reports alleging that Israel would be willing to make concessions in the security zone in south Lebanon, if the area is kept quiet. I oppose this end-of-season sale of the residents of south Lebanon, he said.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I would not suggest that the government make any concession or policy changes before a much more significant agreement is made—a peace agreement with Lebanon.

[Horowitz] Syria has managed to bring about calm in south Lebanon. Do you believe it can absolutely calm south Lebanon in the framework of the current round of negotiations on a comprehensive arrangement in the region?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] There is no doubt about it. Syria is the leading force in Lebanon. If it decides to do so, it can cut off what I call the artery that provides Hizballah with Iranian supplies, money, arms, and spiritual guidance that help it live. [passage omitted]

Commentary: Clinton Too Weak To Pressure Israel

TA0308144493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Aug 93 p B1

[Commentary from Washington by Ori Nir: "Too Busy To Exert Pressure"]

[Text] The way Washington tried to stop the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] attack in Lebanon once again proves that the expression "pressuring Israel" is nonexistent in the Clinton administration's vocabulary. The cease-fire terms, secured through U.S. mediation, left Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with very important achievements and the Lebanese civilian population with horrible damage, for which Israel has not accounted.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher approached this crisis in a way similar to his handling of the deportees crisis—hand in hand with Rabin. Indeed, Washington made public appeals to Israel to hold its fire on several occasions last week, but the appeal was so weak that Israeli officials in Washington regarded it to be mere lip service. In hindsight, they rightfully assumed that the administration could tolerate a few more days of destruction of the civilian infrastructure of south Lebanon.

Rabin continued his pressure and eventually came out with arms full of gains and with a generous U.S. assistance. Not only did Hizballah leaders under Israel's pressure offer a cease-fire, but Christopher's mediation also created a situation in which Syria assumed responsibility for events in south Lebanon. Furthermore, the U.S. mediator relayed a clear message to Syria that using military means to weaken Israel's haggling position at the negotiating table would be a bad idea. Such Syrian tactics would fail because the United States would provide Israel with firm backing even when its retaliation "takes 100 eyes for an eye," as a Washington diplomat put it.

Contrary to previous cynical Republican administrations, Clinton's Democratic administration claimed that the observation of human rights would be a cornerstone of its foreign policy. Christopher is known for his sensitivity to human rights, as are the Clintons, but when it comes to Israel, the administration keeps quiet.

Except for a watered-down announcement by the State Department spokesman on 28 July that gently criticized Israel for harming civilians, not a single senior administration figure addressed the humanitarian aspect. President Clinton was silent, Secretary Christopher was silent, and all the while U.S. public criticism of Israel kept mounting.

Last weekend, I listened to phone-in radio shows. Many callers expressed amazement and resentment over Israel's deliberate attacks on Lebanese civilians and its tactics which explicitly aimed at causing hundreds of thousands civilians to flee the south and head north while Israel is grinding their homes into dust. Some of the callers even mentioned a "Bosnia-style ethnic cleansing."

The newspaper reports and commentaries were also very critical, but, considering the size of the Israeli wrongdoing in south Lebanon, the public and media reaction was surprisingly soft. Rabin's government apparently has tremendous credit from the U.S. public and, naturally, the U.S. Administration.

There is no doubt that the Bush administration would have acted differently. The difference between the Bush and the Clinton administrations' approach to Israel was once more evident. George Bush and James Baker could afford to say: "Screw the Jews; they do not vote for us anyway." Clinton cannot afford this. He was elected by a slim majority of 43 percent, of which 6 to 7 percent were Jews. A large part of the donations made to his campaign came from Jewish pockets. Many of his senior associates in the Democratic Party, the administration, and even the White House are Jews, and they dread U.S.-Israeli tension.

Contrary to the Bush administration, Clinton stands to lose quite a lot if the harmony between him and U.S. Jewry is harmed. The Jewish lever last week exerted heavy pressure on Clinton after he made a silly remark, praising Syria for its restraint in the recent conflagration. The outcry came from both representatives of Jewish organizations and Jewish figures in his party. When on the next day, Clinton said that Syria should go from noninvolvement to active involvement to end the fighting, it was evident that the Jewish pressure worked.

Nevertheless, remarks Clinton made about the Lebanese crisis last week (speaking twice in impromptu interviews) indicate that the President is not familiar with the details, and its seems that he is not interested. The remarks he made last week about the situation in Bosnia indicate that foreign problems are nothing more than a burden on Clinton's shoulders at a time when he is trying to get the Budget through Congress, and salvage himself from the political low he has been in since he started his term.

Clinton's domestic weakness is yet another reason why no one should expect him—or his secretary of state—to take bold initiatives on any foreign matter, including the peace process. Certainly, no one can expect them to launch an initiative that would include exerting any real pressure on Israel.

Poll of MK's: No Referendum Needed Before Agreement

TA0408055393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Seventy percent of the Knesset members [MK's] believe that peace agreements, or at least partial agreements, will be brought before the plenum next year, and

that no referendum or general elections are required before peace agreements are ratified.

Only two-thirds of the opposition MK's believe that general elections should be held prior to the ratification of a peace agreement. These are the findings of a poll conducted by our correspondents Yo'el Nir and Hayim Hecht.

Second Attack in Gaza Contradicts Leadership Orders

TA0308172293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Report by Moti Amir—recorded]

[Excerpts] The extremist Muslims in the Gaza Strip today once again took the lead of the Palestinian national struggle, even escalating it over the past several days, mainly in view of Warren Christopher's visit to the region. After yesterday's serious terror attack in Gaza, in which Yitzhaq Amir was killed and five policemen and Civil Administration workers were injured, today there were two attacks. Luckily, there were no Israeli fatalities. [passage omitted]

An hour after the earlier attack, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol in Rafah spotted a terrorist armed with a hand grenade who was waiting in ambush for the patrol to approach him. The soldiers fired at him, and wounded him lightly in the leg. One of the soldiers approached the assailant to apprehend him and was attacked from the back by another terrorist. The soldier shot the other terrorist and injured him, but the two managed to escape in the ensuing chaos.

The IDF spokesman reported that one of the wounded terrorists was later apprehended, and that the security forces are continuing the search for the other, and the three who attacked the Israeli earlier. The hand grenade, incidentally, was never found.

The escalation in terror activity in the Gaza Strip comes in contradiction of the orders issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah. The recent leaflet disseminated in the territories called on the residents not to intensify terror activity, unless there are Palestinian casualties from security forces' fire. It seems that the extremist organizations, such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, are deliberately violating the order of the intifadah command to stress their opposition to the continuation of the peace process.

Anti-Israel 'Terrorists' Said Training in Sinai

TA0408105793 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Aug 93 p 5

[Report by Amnon Yosef]

[Excerpt] Hundreds of terrorists are being trained in the Sinai Peninsula to carry out strikes in Israel. The terrorists are led by Yasir Abu-Samahdanah, the No. 1 fugitive from the territories. HADASHOT has learned this from a senior defense source.

The terrorists' base is situated in the Sinai area of al-Rummanah on the Mediterranean, some 150 km west of the Israeli-Egyptian border. "The terrorists are undergoing rigorous training, and they have been armed with diverse weapons and ammunition," the source added.

The attempts to infiltrate into Israel have increased considerably over recent months, and in several instances, terrorists were killed while attempting to cross the border. "These are the first operations of these terrorists; they may try to improve their infiltration methods and to carry them out more often," the source said. [passage omitted]

Rabin Meets CPC Delegation, To Visit PRC in October

TA0408102393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Aug 93 p 3

[Report by Amir Neuman]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin intends to visit China in mid-October. The prime minister said so in a meeting in his office yesterday with a delegation of the Chinese Communist Party. In the conversation, Rabin spoke of the dangers of the rise of the Iranian-inspired Islamic fundamentalism. He said that he "hopes that countries that maintain relations with Iran will understand the significance of its activities and, if possible, help moderate Iran's extremely hostile stand against Israel."

Gu Jinchi, the head of the delegation and a member of the PRC Communist Party Central Committee, said that his government is aware of the Israeli stand favoring a single China, which helps the relations between the two states. He noted that the PRC also acknowledges Israel's achievements in science and technology, and is interested in using this knowledge. He also referred to the possibility that Israel help the PRC develop its relations with other countries.

Prime Minister Rabin said that Israel is very interested in developing and expanding its ties with the PRC. He also briefed the visitors on the Middle East peace process.

Parliament Dissolved; Elections Set for 8 Nov

JN0408114193 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] A royal decree has been issued dissolving Parliament as of today, 4 August 1993, in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Article 34 of the Constitution.

In a related development, the cabinet has set 8 November 1993 as the date for the next parliamentary elections. Interior Minister Salamah Hammad will address a press conference tomorrow to explain government measures and arrangements made for holding the parliamentary elections.

Christopher Welcomed Despite Lebanon Aftermath

JN0408105093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Aug 93 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Welcome to the U.S. Secretary"]

[Text] We cannot but welcome the U.S. secretary of state. We are a nation haracterized by forgiveness when in a position of strength, although we cannot claim we are unable to forgive when in a position of weakness. As long as the United States is talking about a peace it is trying to convince us to accept, and while we are Arabs who seek peace and are working hard to find someone who might accept it, it is only natural for us to emphasize to the U.S. secretary that those corpses in Lebanon, which have not yet been buried, that this destruction whose rubble requires years to clear, and that these scenes of suffering must not prevent our nation from welcoming Mr. Christopher, nor must they be a reason for us to postpone talk about peace and a settlement until 40 days have passed after the killing of hundreds of children, women, and elderly in Lebanon.

It is wrong to say that the U.S. official's tour aims at convincing the peace partners of the importance of maintaining their participation. The Arabs are already sold on peace and on participation. They need only a short period of time between each round of talks to demand that Washington play the role of a full partner, demand that the world to shoulder its responsibilities, and talk about international legitimacy and its principles and resolutions. After that, they will return to Washington to continue talks with someone who talks about obstacles that can be overcome, someone who talks about obstacles that do not exist, and someone who talks about optimism that has the features of pessimism, and pessimism that has the features of optimism. The Arabs realize that the United States is capable of playing the role of a full political partner because it has been playing the role of full military partner to Israel since its establishment. Perhaps the U.S. stand toward the latest barbaric Israeli aggression against Lebanon was one of a thousand pieces of evidence of its concern to play a full-partner role.

We welcome Mr. Christopher. We also emphasize that our concern for peace and international legitimacy and our full commitment to UN resolutions are greater than any minor or major resentment. No limited or large-scale aggression can prevent us from adhering to this concern, and from practicing it at the talks. We say all this without forgetting to emphasize that the peace we seek cannot be protected by threats or monitored by cameras. The decision to protect this peace does not depend on the present generation, which is suffering from bloodshed and humiliation, but on future generations, who are being fed a destructive grudge by others, and who will accept nothing less than justice as a criterion for the continuation of peace.

Prince Hasan on Confederation, Regional Peace

JN0308201893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Interview with Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan by unidentified Spanish television correspondent; place and date not given—recorded, in English]

[Text] [Correspondent] I want to ask you about the role of Jordan in the peace process. Jordan is the only Arab country that has achieved more progress in this process. How can it now help to take the Palestinians out of the blockade in the peace process? Is there a possibility that the confederation could be the idea to take [words indistinct] process advanced?

[Hasan] May I make it very clear that the negotiating process is one of Palestinian negotiation with the Israelis. As far as the relationship, of Jordan, the role of Jordan, is concerned, we stand ready to do whatever we can to support the Palestinian negotiating position. For that reason, the joint committee was formed to increase coordination. However, when it comes to the subject of final status, it must be made very clear that the issue of confederation depends on the will of the people, the Palestinian people and the Jordanian people, and can only be realized in a situation of freedom and in exercising their full right to self-determination.

[Correspondent] What is the idea of a confederation? For example, is it one government or, for example, a Jordan-Palestine [word indistinct] nationalities? How is the idea, in general, of this confederation between Jordan and Palestine?

[Hasan] As I said, I think that the movement in the peace process is essential to any discussion about the future status. And I do not think that the movement comes from Jordanian generosity. On the contrary, I think that Jordan has been conspicuous in its contribution both to the Jordanian-Palestinian umbrella and to attendance at both the bilateral and multilateral talks. [sentence as heard] Today, to enhance our contribution, we have formed, once again, a Jordanian- Palestinian coordinating committee. The question of a confederation, on the other hand, is a question that is an issue to be resolved after the final status is achieved, of independence and, indeed, sovereignty for the Palestinians on their own soil in what is today occupied Palestine. When that is achieved, the modality of self- determination will lead to a full and free choice. As to the structure of

federation, or confederation, of future status ideas, these have been floated in the past in various forms, but I think is very premature to discuss them at this moment.

[Correspondent] Your highness, I want to ask you about the development of Jordan, because, personally, I saw the country affect development in recent years. How is the economic situation now, in the wake of the many problems in your country caused by the massive influx of Palestinians after the Gulf war, and, I'm sure, the arrival of Iraqis? How do you [word indistinct] this in contrast with the development of the country.

[Hasan] We have good news in that the national economy is achieving a growth rate of 8 percent. The bad news, of course, is, as you pointed out, that with the heavy human influx of returnees and migrants, it is very difficult to talk about maintaining per capita levels. We are talking about a $1,000- $14,000 disparity between Jordanians and Palestinians on the one hand, and Israelis on the other. So, when people speak of extremism based either on politics or the economics of despair, or disillusionment with the economic restructuring package, they have a right to say effectively that unless and until the world recognizes the regional political economy, the losses of Jordan in the Gulf war have been recorded by the United Nations. [sentence as heard] The pressure on Jordan today with continued sanctions is being recorded by the United Nations. We are talking about hundreds of millions of dollars every month. We feel that these pressures are illogical, and if the intention is effectively political, then the international community should consider incentives rather than pressure for a country that has done so much for peace.

[Correspondent] This [word indistinct] and development of the country do not make more difference between the classes, I mean, for the middle class and the high classes and the poor?

[Hasan] The returnees, of course, include entrepreneurs from the middle class. But you are quite right. I refer, there, to the politics and the economics of despair. (?That) when people speak of extremism, it is built effectively in non-achievement economically. We believe, effectively, that it is not welfare programs which are going to rescue this situation and change it, whether it is unemployment or poverty, but it is the full activation of the economy in the areas that matter. And we believe that, geopolitically, Jordan is suited, provided we do our homework of improving legislation, regulations, and opening to the world, that Jordan can become an investment center, particularly in new areas where we've seen a doubling of investment: the apparel industry, the pharmaceutical industry, and the computer and data industry. But the fact is that Jordan is still blockaded. Our exports in phosphates, for example, have almost been halved. And, indeed our exports in fruit and vegetables, again, are made impossible by the continuous blockade and, indeed, the barriers that exist between us and many of the Gulf states.

[Corrrespondent] How is the relationship between, now in the [word indistinct] between Jordan and the Gulf states? Because there was a situation [words indistinct] going to be better?

[Hasan] We are seeing the increasing indications that individuals, [word indistinct] representatives, private groupings would like to see a rapprochement. It is still a very personalized issue on higher levels in some of the Gulf states (?that) Jordan took a position which they saw as supportive of Iraq. We have made it very clear that we were supportive of an inter-Arab solution, and that we have had, and will continue to have, deep concern for the welfare of the people of Iraq. After all, one million children under the age of five may die during the next six months due to the lack of medicines, or unclean water, or [word indistinct]. And our hope is that the overwhelming problems that are a common denominator between us all—extremism, poverty, instability in the Middle East region—will soon [words indistinct] bring us into dialogue once again with the Arab countries.

[Correspondent] Your highness, about the democratic process here in Jordan. In November, you celebrate the first elections, and I will [?ask you) how do you help in order to give the stability [word indistinct] right now has Jordan in this election, in this process?

[Hasan] Pluralism, greater participation in local government, greater participation in the accountability of the parliament and its elected members by the electorate, by the constituencies through, effectively, that I hope will (?evolve) during this election campaign, a greater focusing on public issues as opposed to continued focusing on private issues and individual claims and requests by different groupings within the country. We believe that this election will bring about a greater participation across the [words indistinct] this small country. There is a lot of excitement and a lot [words indistinct]

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] Jordan is the only country that [word indistinct] the extremist [words indistinct] party inside the parliament. How do you see this experience, because in other Arab countries has big problems now because to eliminate the [word indistinct] of these groups.

[Hasan] We are not in the use of presenting recipes for others. We have often a highly intelligent, often conservative, electorate, and I think there has to be a distinction made between politicization of [word indistinct] religious or ideological, and between the fact that the Jordanian people had, generally, been and will continue to be a centrist people. Of course, a large percentage, a significant percentage of our population is Christian and this is often overlooked. And, I think there is a great deal of mutual respect in the Jordanian modus vivindi, which preceded parliamentary life and contributed to it. So, I would say this is the Jordanian way, that there is some great truth, a great deal of truth in the concept of the Jordanian family, or as it [word indistinct] called, Husayn's family.

Buwayz Welcomes Christopher, Delegation at Border

NC0408133193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1315 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived at the al-Masna' border point, where he was welcomed by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. The U.S. delegation includes Dennis Ross, Edward Djerejian, Martin Indyk, Betty Jones, and Michael McCurry plus official interpreter Jilal Halal. Our radio has learned that Christopher's visit to Lebanon will not last beyond 1900 today because of Christopher's prior engagements.

Al-Hirawi Travels to Zahlah for Meeting

NC0408104393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Excerpts] AFP has confirmed reports that the U.S. secretary of state will visit Zahlah today to hold meetings with Lebanese officials. [passage omitted]

According to information available to our radio, President Ilyas al-Hirawi will go to Zahlah at 1400 [1100 GMT] today. Several ministers have been notified that the regular Cabinet meeting slated for this evening has been postponed.

A meeting was held between Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in the Government House at noon today. Buwayz denied reports about Christopher's visit to Zahlah.

Al-Hariri also met Deputy Prime Minister Engineer Michel al-Murr. Afterward, al-Hariri said the regular Cabinet meeting was cancelled because he will be in Damascus.

Al-Hariri Leaves 'Unexpectedly' for Damascus

NC0408110993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Local and Arab attention today focused on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's mission in the area, particularly in Damascus, his third stop on his Middle East tour.

There were contradictory reports today about Christopher's visit to Lebanon to meet Lebanese officials. Amid the confusion in government circles and among unofficial sources, it was confirmed, for reasons which were not explained, that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left hastily and unexpectedly for Damascus. But it can be said his visit has nothing to do with foreign media reports of a possible visit to Lebanon by Christopher.

We have learned that the Council of Ministers' meeting scheduled for this afternoon has been canceled. This was announced by Prime Minister al-Hariri as he left Government House today. He said the Council of Ministers' meeting was canceled—not for the reason reported by AFP, but because he was leaving for Damascus.

The same news agency cited a reliable source as saying that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit Zahlah in the al-Biqa' valley for a quick round of talks with Lebanese officials.

Hizballah on Christopher's Role in Negotiations

NC0408063893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Reacting to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's remarks in Cairo, the first stop on his Middle East tour, Hizballah issued a statement: We did not have the slightest doubt that the brutal Zionist aggression against our people and our land was carried out in coordination with the United States of America. American efforts to bring about a cease fire were not in response to humanitarian calls or to Arab demands. Their efforts were part of an agreed-upon scenario which was implemented after the aggression achieved its goal of killing and destruction. According to the scenario, Washington intervened at the request of the parties concerned and in view of the tragic developments.

According to the same scenario, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher came to the region to pluck the fruit of the good American efforts.

Christopher' negotiations are merely urgent demands for admissions and concessions from Arab parties, presented under a threat to renew the Israeli aggression, the statement said.

The statement called for denouncing: Christopher's remarks, the blatant bias toward Israel, and the adoption of the Israeli aggression and using it to push the settlement process ahead. It called on Arab parties to confront Christopher, letting him see that the brutal attacks neither change priorities nor create a new reality which extends beyond the logic of just rights. With its current policy, Washington is not nor will be the suitable authority to lead the region to a real and just peace. While collaborating with the Zionist entity, Washington is trying to design specific solutions which are based on the logic of power and on direct and indirect threats, the statement said.

The statement reiterated that any negotiations held under such circumstances are null and void and cannot continue. Such negotiations could not lead the parties concerned to producing convincing results or peaceful solutions, the statement pointed out.

'Heated Discussion' Between Buwayz, Velayati Cited

NC0408110093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0946 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Beirut, 4 Aug (MENA)—The Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR today revealed that a heated discussion took place between Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati during their negotiations in Damascus last week. Buwayz accused Iran of

dealing directly with and financially supporting Hizballah and of bypassing the head of the Lebanese state.

According to the paper, Buwayz posed questions and leveled accusations regarding Iran's persistence in going over the head of the Lebanese state by dealing directly with Hizballah. We came to you, seeking cooperation and friendship between our two states, but you continued to ignore us as a legitimate authority, Buwayz said, according to the paper.

Addressing Velayati, Buwayz said: We read in your Council of Ministers' resolutions that you have allocated funds to Hizballah, although we recognize that party as a Lebanese political institution. We neither barred its access to parliament nor issued special laws to dissolve parliament and prevent Hizballah from performing its role in legitimate Lebanese political life, Buwayz remarked.

Citing circles close to Tehran, AL-SAFIR wrote that Syria brought Arabs together for Lebanon's sake and launched contacts with the United States in order to bring about a cease-fire. But, the circles noted, this could not have been done without Iran.

These sources told the Lebanese paper that Velayati responded immediately to the Damascus invitation. He spent three days in Damascus, where he heard harsh words blaming Iran for the Israeli shock. Nonetheless, he contributed to challenging Israel's excuses for continuing its aggression.

Citing these sources, AL-SAFIR pointed out that Velayati disregarded slander by more than one Arab party and responded to most requests, particularly to the request to use Iranian influence with Hizballah and the Ahmad Jibril-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command.

Buwayz Discusses Army Deployment in UNIFIL Area

NC0308194193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Aug 93

[News conference by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents after his meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Ryan Crocker in Beirut on 3 Aug—recorded]

[Text] We discussed the Lebanese Army's deployment in the area of operations of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] and the measures to implement this decision. Of course, intensive contacts are under way with the UN secretary general, the U.S. side, and UNIFIL. The United States can undoubtedly facilitate the army's mission and the implementation of this decision.

[Correspondent] Did you sense a desire on the part of UNIFIL for the army to be there with it?

[Buwayz] It is evident that UNIFIL has no objection and is ready to cooperate with the Lebanese Army in this. It is also evident that the entry into or deployment of the Lebanese Army in this area does not conflict, first, with the spirit and letter of Resolutions 425 and 426 but is part of the implementation of these two resolutions. Second, it is not an alternative to the presence of UNIFIL, which will remain in this area. And fourth, [as heard] it will have no effect on the nature, presence, or size of this UNIFIL presence. It appears that the United Nations has so far not objected and has even welcomed the decision to deploy the army alongside UNIFIL in a way that is compatible with Resolutions 425 and 426 and with the mandate given UNIFIL.

[Correspondent] Will the army be deployed alongside UNIFIL?

[Buwayz] Of course. We believe there is absolutely no objection to the presence of two forces that have the same mission and objective, especially when these two forces are modern.

[Correspondent] Has the U.S. ambassador indicated a U.S. backing for this deployment?

[Buwayz] We have asked for this backing. We believe that the United States will make the necessary efforts for this purpose.

Birri, al-Hariri Comment

NC0308201993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri said that the most important motive behind the catastrophe that befell the south is that of driving a wedge between the resistance and the inhabitants of the south. Speaker Birri said that the army deployment in the area controlled by the UN Interim Force in Lebanon will help, rather than deter, the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426. Security needs do not conflict with those of the resistance, he stated in an interview tonight with local media.

Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, for his part, stressed that Lebanon needs to deploy the army in the areas adjacent to the occupied security strip because of the chaos caused by Israeli destruction. He said: We are not sending the army there to stop the resistance. Al-Hariri described the talks held with the United Nations over the deployment of the army as positive.

Hizballah Seeks Expulsion of Russian Envoy

PM0308145893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Aug 93 p5

[Unattributed report: "Hizballah Urges Nonacceptance of U.S. Gifts"]

[Excerpts] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Ibrahim al-Amin al-Sayyid (Hizballah), head of the "Loyalty to the Resistance Bloc," has called for the expulsion of Viktor

Posuvalyuk, head of the Middle East and Africa Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, from Lebanon "because he insulted the state and the people and was on a mission to promote the Zionist aggression against our people, land, and villages."

He also urged the Lebanese Government to reject U.S. gifts and aid and to refuse to accept the U.S. aid announced by U.S. Ambassador to Beirut Ryan Crocker on the grounds that "it is wrong to accept aid from the party that slaughters our people and continues to provide a cover and to support the barbaric aggression against us."

Shaykh Na'im Qasim, deputy secretary general of the party [Hizballah], said that "the Israeli operation has reached its limit and continuation of the operation by the Israelis would be attrition without the achievement of any objective." He expected the operation to stop before the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the region.

Al-Sayyid and Shaykh Qasim were talking to AL-HAYAH yesterday. Al-Sayyid said that "Hizballah preferred to ask the Lebanese Foreign Ministry through the media to expel the Russia envoy to Beirut for insulting the state and people of Lebanon. These insults were, to say the least, a provocation to the people who are resisting and standing fast under the blows of the Zionist enemy." He added: "We did not submit a written request to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry for the expulsion of the Russian envoy. We decided to make the request through the media because that is the most effective way of exposing the suspect role which Russia has played and continues to play, as is evident in the fact that this 'honorable envoy' did not utter one word denoting solidarity with the Lebanese or condemning the aggression."

He added: "We were not surprised by the Russian position but we were surprised that the Russian envoy to Beirut was so impudent in his justification of the agrression, saying that Israel carried out its latest operation in southern Lebanon in retaliation for extremist actions." [passage omitted]

Asked what would be Hizballah's position if international guarantees of Israeli withdrawal were provided and how willing it was to stop its operations, he said: "We do not believe in guarantees. All Israel has to do is withdraw. If it continues to occupy our territory, who can prevent us from exercising our right to resist it? Why all this beating about the bush? It is a question of Israeli withdrawal and of ending the occupation." [passage omitted]

The day before yesterday a Hizballah delegation consisting of Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, his deputy Shaykh Na'im Qasim, and al-Hajj Husayn al-Khalil, head of the Political Bureau, visited Damascus and met with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati and then with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, returning at night.

Qasim told AL-HAYAH that the delegation found the party's views to be identical with the Iranian and Syrian views and that "the level of cooperation between the two sides [as published] is high at this stage." [passage omitted]

Court Decides To Reopen Case Against Newspaper

NC0308192993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 3 August 1530 GMT 93

[Text] The Beirut Publications Court, sitting under the chairmanship of Judge 'Afif Shams-al-Din, has decided to reopen the case pertaining to the newspaper AL-SAFIR's publication of an Israeli document [containing peace proposals to Lebanon]. A session will be held for this purpose on 5 November 1993.

Warren Christopher Arrives in Damascus 4 Aug

Met by al-Shar'

JN0408073693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0715 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Damascus at 0930 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and senior Foreign Ministry officials as well as the Syrian ambassador in Washington, the American ambassador in Damascus, and the U.S. Embassy staff received him at Damascus International Airport.

A Syrian-U.S. session of talks, chaired by Faruq al-Shar' and Warren Christopher, was held at the Foreign Ministry at 1000 today.

Al-Asad Receives Christopher

JN0408105893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at 1130 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross attended the meeting.

Washington Encouraged To Alter Policy in Region

JN0408093493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN says: It is premature to speculate on the outcome of Christopher's initial talks with Israeli officials. Syria welcomes the mission of Mr. Christopher, who will arrive in Damascus today. When it examines the outcome of Christopher's tour, Syria always bears in mind that the U.S. responsibility toward the region, in the aftermath of the Israeli aggression on southern Lebanon, has become immense. Syria believes that the United States has a responsibility to safeguard the stability of the entire Middle East region. The United States must halt mounting Israeli aggressions on the Arab nation and terminate the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, because this occupation is the manifestation of this constant aggression.

TISHRIN adds: If it is willing to continue its mediation efforts, given its pledge to play the role of a full partner in the peace talks, then the United States must start by removing Israeli obstacles, which have turned into land mines standing in the way of the peace process. Israel would not have dared to attack Lebanon and the residents of southern Lebanon had it been deterred from the outset. Everybody is well aware that Israel is still opposed to withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and that it is also unwilling to comply with UN resolutions pertaining to the Middle East conflict, not to mention its pursuit of an aggressive policy, something which will further complicate the Middle East situation and push the peace process toward a deadlock.

TISHRIN affirms Syria's concern about a just peace. This, the paper adds, has been demonstrated by its stands, and also by its submission of a working document during the sixth round of the Washington bilateral talks to activate the peace talks. This document was based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. This document reflected Syria's belief that there can be no peace as long as the occupation is maintained, and also as long as injustice, aggression, repression, and the usurpation of territories continue. Syria also believes that half solutions are unacceptable, because justice is indivisible.

For its part, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The savage, murderous, and destructive war launched by Israeli aggressors against unarmed civilians and south Lebanese cities and villages over seven consecutive days has failed to yield any benefits for Rabin and his political team. Indeed, the aggression has failed to undermine Lebanon's stand and its national and pan-Arab firmness. Likewise, this aggression has failed to weaken Lebanon's resolve to liberate its occupied territories.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This Israeli military action has failed to achieve any political objectives. Thanks to Lebanese resistance, this action has turned into pressure against the aggressors themselves—pressure that put Israeli aggressors in the dock and made them the target of international condemnation. Through this military belligerence, the Tel Aviv rulers sought to torpedo the peace process, circumvent the U.S. secretary of state's current tour of the region and render it devoid of any meaningful content, and preclude any progress in the peace talks.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: The recent Israeli aggression has demonstrated the need to achieve just peace, as well as the importance of expediting efforts to curb Israeli aggression and make Israel, by all means, comply with international legitimacy and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

AL-THAWRAH concludes its commentary by viewing the military outcome of the Israeli aggression, saying: The aggression mounted against Lebanon cannot be deemed a victory for Rabin and his generals, because it resulted in the murder of women, elderly people, and children, as well as the destruction of civilian targets. Similarly, the national resistance, which the Israelis sought to obliterate, is still there, and will remain active as long as the occupation of territories is maintained. Furthermore, the aggression further enhanced a unique growing support for this resistance inside and outside Lebanon, because resistance is a sacred and legitimate right.

AL-BA'TH newspaper comments on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's meetings with Israeli officials, saying: News has leaked that Christopher is not optimistic regarding any breakthroughs or exciting developments.

AL-BA'TH adds: Even though Christopher has not made public the reasons for his pessimism, it is clear that they

have something to do with Israel's failure to commit itself to the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions. Aggression, threats of aggression, and pressures will not make the Arabs accept a peace that would not ensure the restoration of their rights. Hence, it would be better to focus efforts on how international resolutions can be implemented. Furthermore, the land-for-peace formula must be implemented, because this is the only way to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Arab rights have been usurped. It is Israel which usurped their territory by use of force, and which is engaged in psychological terrorism. This has been demonstrated by its aggression against southern Lebanon, and also by its rejection of complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, which is a prerequisite for any just settlement. Israel seeks to torpedo the peace process, whereas the Arab sides engaged in the it have done a great deal to create the conditions and secure the requirements deemed necessary for the success of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: The basic components of peace are unmistakably clear, and one actually wonders why there are no serious efforts to activate the negotiations by focusing on these components, and why the procrastinating party is not being held responsible in no uncertain terms. It is unacceptable for Washington to remain hostage to certain policies, particularly since it is the very party which launched the peace initiative in the first place.

Commentary Notes Christopher's Remarks in Egypt

JN0308151193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] In Alexandria, on the first leg of his Middle East tour, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has called for a discussion of the substantial issues in the Arab-Israeli conflict. He called for the adoption of the decisions required to achieve tangible progress in the peace process. He pointed out that recent developments in Lebanon must be seen as a warning of what would happen if the Washington bilateral talks fail.

Observers are unanimous that Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the restoration of the Palestinian people are the substantial issues of the regional conflict. The Arabs have exerted strenuous efforts over the past 20 months to bolster the peace process, based on these issues. So far, however, the Israeli rulers have rejected the land for peace formula. To prove their adherence to occupation, to devouring the occupied Arab territories, and to imposing Zionist arrogance by force, the Israeli rulers have carried out a brutal aggression against Lebanon. They burned southern Lebanon and destroyed approximately 40,000 houses. They did not hesitate to provoke Syrian forces to try to explode a large- scale conflict. If they had done so, they believed they could terrorize the Arab parties participating in Washington talks and dictate their terms to them. These terms conflict with the UN Security Council resolutions, the UN Charter, and the essence of the U.S. initiative itself.

Although their aggression has failed to achieve its objectives and has angered world peoples because of the hideous war crimes perpetrated during this aggression—such as displacing civilians by force, and destroying their towns, villages, and cities. This is in addition to threatening the Middle east peace process.

Israeli arrogance remains the same. The Tel Aviv rulers have continued to reject the basics of the peace process and to consider Arab land as common land on which they do whatever they want. The proof is the abominable crimes they have perpetrated in southern Lebanon.

All the world's peoples recognize the legitimacy of resistance to occupation. They consider occupation as an act of aggression. Throughout the Washington talks, Lebanon has futilely tried to persuade the Israeli negotiating side to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425. Lebanon expressed its readiness to deploy its army in all areas in southern Lebanon and to take full responsibility for security there, after the withdrawal of the invading Israeli forces. But the Israelis have categorically refused to implement Resolution 425 while they are arming agent militias that are under their full control in the occupied area of southern Lebanon. While these militias are entrusted with the tasks of shelling Lebanese villages on a daily basis, the Israelis deny the Lebanese the right to restore their territory and to resist occupation. In fact, they want the Lebanese to guard their occupation forces. They refuse to withdraw from the Golan Heights and demand secure borders. They refuse to even discuss the issue of Jerusalem and insist on maintaining their settlements in the West Bank and on keeping them under their control on the pretext of security. Using this pretext, they have shelled civilians in southern Lebanon and killed men, women, and children. They refuse to withdraw from the occupied territories.

If security was Israel's main concern, as President Hafiz al-Asad said, then its pretext in this regard is baseless, for it is the Arabs who should use this pretext after what has been inflicted on them as a result of Israeli aggressions. The scene of destruction in southern Lebanon is the best proof.

Based on this, Secretary Christopher's mission must focus on Israel's acceptance of the basics of a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, particularly withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and recognizing the Palestinian people's rights.

The Arabs will not submit to Israel's dictation under any circumstances. They adhere to the restoration of all their territories. The recent incidents in Lebanon proved that the policy of aggression will be to no avail. Lebanon,

Syria, and all the Arabs are determined to restore their territories. In return for this, they give true, just, and honorable peace. If Israel has no desire for peace, which is true—the proof is the destructive crimes it has perpetrated—then that is its own business. The Arabs will never budge one inch from the UN Security Council resolutions and the charters of the international community. Israel and its protectors should be held responsible for the failure of the peace process in the Middle East and for pushing matters onto the brink of collapse and explosion. President Hafiz al-Asad has frankly and clearly said that our stands during the battle for peace will be no less courageous than on the battlefield.

Our support for peace does not mean that we accept the kind of peace Israel seeks to impose on the Arab parties. Nor does it mean that we should accept less than a just peace, in every aspect. Until Israel submits to a just peace and terminates occupation, resistance will continue. The aggressors' bombs will only inflame people's rancor and bolster their determination to resist aggression and occupation.

Cabinet Discusses Israeli Raid, Christopher Tour

JN0308160993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers met under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 today. It discussed developments in the region, especially the results of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the efforts exerted by Syria and Lebanon in the Arab and international arenas to stop this treacherous aggression.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' stressed Syria's adherence to the national and pan-Arab constants expressed by President Hafiz al-Asad in his address to the Armed Forces on the Army day anniversary.

The council discussed the results of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Damascus, developments in the peace process, and the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region.

The Council of Ministers discussed the draft law on amending the provisions of Labor Law No. 91 of 1959, as amended. It also discussed the draft law on endorsing a technical and scientific protocol with Egypt.

The Council of Minister reviewed the work of the services, economic, and cultural committees. It studied issues submitted to it and adopted necessary decisions.

Afghanistan

Russian Helicopters Attack Villages in Takhar Province

LD0308170093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Four jet aircraft and two helicopters of the Russian Air Force bombarded (?villages) in Chahab District, Takhar Province again today.

A reliable source within the Afghan Defense Ministry told the Bakhtar Information Agency that the enemy used various types of weapons and shelled border areas in Afghanistan, inflicting heavy losses of life and property.

Mazari Opposes Direct Involvement in Tajik Fighting

BK0308131893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1241 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Kabul, Aug 3 (AFP)—Afghanistan should not get directly involved in the fighting between Russia and Tajikistan, the leader of the country's pro-Iranian faction said Tuesday.

Abdul Ali Mazari, head of the Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party], said his party was prepared to support Tajik mojahedin fighters in their bid to topple the pro-Moscow regime there but added: "We are not inclined to interfere in the internal affairs of others. We have enough problems here in Afghanistan to deal with.

"But as human beings and as Muslims we should offer the Tajik refugees a shelter in our land," Mazari said in an interview with AFP.

Moscow has accused Afghanistan of sheltering Tajik rebels and providing them with arms and military training, an allegation Kabul denies.

Mazari said to help refugees was not a crime and that 70 years of communism had made it impossible for Moscow to "appreciate our behaviour properly".

He ruled out the possibility of another Russian invasion of Afghanistan: "I can assure you that the Russians do not dare even think about invading Afghanistan. Not this generation and not in succeeding generations. We have burnt their hands and they will not forget it.

"The Russian threats are a divine gift" which will hopefully unite the divided Afghan people, he said.

The pro-Shiite leader said his party, which was involved in fierce fighting against Kabul government forces last month, was now willing to negotiate with "any party".

Talks were in progress to arrange an exchange of POWs from the fighting and bolster the ceasefire, he added.

Bangladesh

Export Earnings Increase in Last Fiscal Year

BK0308130893 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Bangladesh has earned nearly 92.98 billion taka by exporting goods during the last fiscal year. This is 21.96 percent more than in fiscal year 1991. Export earnings during the 1991-92 fiscal year amounted to 75.91 billion taka. Citing the Export Development Bureau, our economic correspondent reports that exports during the last fiscal year increased by 10.30 percent compared to the previous year. The export items included ready-made garments, jute and jute goods, leather, knitwear, and primary goods.

India

'Breakthrough' in Missile Technology Reported

BK0308141593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 3 Aug 93 pp 1, 6

[Text] New Delhi—In a major breakthrough, India has evolved an aerodynamic code for a wide range of missiles including the most advanced of them all, the Cruise missile.

The development will make it possible to design a number of missiles like large ballistic, small heat-seekers and even Cruise missiles. With the new code, it will also be possible to shorten the time taken for a new missile development by at least one-third.

According to scientific sources, the comprehensive aerodynamic code enables rapid estimation of aerodynamic forces acting on the missile's surface when in flight. It is called the Missile Aerodynamic Design Manual.

Indian defence scientists describe this new evolvement as the most significant development in the Indian missile calendar since the first flight of the intermediate range ballistic missile, Agni.

It is learnt that some details of the project classified as "secret" were revealed to select group of people during a recent symposium at National Aerospace Laboratory (NAL).

It may be recalled that the Cruise missile was the most widely used US weapon during the Gulf War and the latest attack on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters was also launched by a Cruise missile "tomahawk". Its technology is a closely-guarded secret with only a few countries possessing it.

While it is believed that the Indian guided missile programme also includes a Cruise missile, there has been no official confirmation. Its aerodynamic code, contained in the new missile aerodynamic design manual, is a confirmation that such a project has been undertaken.

Missile experts say the most laborious aspect of any aerospace project is the time taken to study the effects of wind on a projectile. The movement of a missile is dependent on wind flow and scientists work out an optimum surface design that can cruise through the most difficult wind conditions.

This is a complex process involving several hundred man-hours using most advanced and powerful computers. According to reports available here at least 25 different types of missile can be assembled with the new missile prediction code.

The authoritative Jane's defence review on missiles lists an Indian Cruise missile programme with a 600 km range and 450 kg warhead. The US has been crying wolf over missile proliferation in the subcontinent and has placed India at the top of a list of nations that are "potential missile threats to the United States."

Further on Postponement of By-Elections

Party Leaders' Discussions

BK0308131993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] The speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr. Shivraj Patil, today convened a meeting of leaders of all parties to discuss the issue of postponement of elections by the chief election commissioner. Later, he informed the house that the meeting has found a solution to the issue and the parliamentary affairs minister will give the details to the house. The speaker informed this to the house soon after the law minister, Mr. H.R. Bharadwaj, made a statement in the house on the issue.

The chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, has reiterated that the election commission will not be in a position to conduct any election until the deadlock over the constitutional prerogative of the commission in securing the assistance of necessary staff is resolved. Addressing a crowded news conference in New Delhi today, he said he will wait for the Bombay High Court decision before deciding upon the next course of action. Mr. Seshan said he has started a dialogue with the central government on securing the assistance of the necessary staff in September last year. He regretted that there was no positive response. Mr. Seshan said a stage has been been reached where the commission, instead of being able to discharge its constitutional obligations, was being deliberately prevented from its duties. The chief election commissioner clarified that, as law demands, elections can be postponed till only a definite date; yesterday's order will be valid till the 18th of December.

The National Front and Left Parties have expressed grave concern at the decision of the chief election commissioner to postpone all the by-elections to the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha, state assembly, and legislative council seats. A statement issued after a meeting of CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], CPI [Communist Party of India], Janata Dal, Samajwadi Party and Janata Dal-A in New Delhi today says the order has created a constitutional crisis.

Summary of Developments

BK0308162393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] The Calcutta High Court today stayed the operation of the order of the Election Commission on holding the biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha and assembly by-elections in West Bengal. Mr. Justice Shyamul Kumar Sen passed an interim order on a writ petition filed by Mr. Rajesh Khaitan, a voter of the Chowrangi assembly constituency and an MLA [member of legislative assembly]. Mr. Justice Sen directed that the elections that may be held in the state would abide by the court's decision on the petition. The next hearing will be held on Friday next. The judge also directed that the elections be held as scheduled.

The Supreme Court today stayed the counting of votes in the by-election to the Maharashtra Legislative Council from the Poona local authorities constituency. The stay was granted on a special leave petition filed by the Election Commission against the Bombay High Court order. The bench consisting of Chief Justice Venkatchelaiah and Mr. Justice S. Mohan said the counting should not be proceeded with except on a specific direction by the Election Commission. The case will again come up for hearing on Friday. Meanwhile, the Bombay High Court today admitted a writ petition filed by the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, seeking a stay on the Election Commission's decision to postpone the by-election. Mr. Pawar is one of the candidates in the fray from Poona constituency. The high court, which allowed the polling to be held today, directed that the results of the election should not be declared till final orders are issued. The matter will come up before the bench on the 20th of this month. Meanwhile, the polling for the by-election to the legislative council from the Poona local self-government constituency passed off peacefully this evening. About 99.21 percent of voting was reported.

The Tamil Nadu government today moved the Madras High Court seeking a direction to the chief election commissioner not to interfere in the conduct of the by-election in Palani Lok Sabha and Ranipet assembly constituencies. In a writ petition, the state government also sought the quashing of the Election Commission's order directing the deployment of central forces in the two constituencies.

The Lok Sabha was assured today that the government will come out with an effective solution soon to solve the issue of postponement of the elections by the chief election commissioner. This was stated by the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, after a meeting of leaders of all parties in the chamber of the Lok Sabha speaker. He said several suggestions, including a multi-member election commission and a clear definition of the Election Commission's powers,

were made at the meeting. While the government shared the concern expressed by the leaders, it will examine all suggestions and come out with an effective solution soon, he said. The speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, had earlier informed that the leaders of all parties had a good discussion in his chamber and the conclusions of the meeting will be conveyed to the house by Mr. Shukla.

Earlier, in a suo moto statement, the law minister, Mr. H.R. Bharadwaj, said that the immediate reason for the chief election commissioner's order appears to emanate from the direction regarding the deployment of Central Reserve Police Forces to oversee arrangements during forthcoming by-elections in Tamil Nadu.

The Rajya Sabha was today adjourned amidst noisy scenes from the opposition which was protesting against the government's failure to make a statement on the postponement of the elections by the chief election commissioner yesterday. The opposition members blamed the government for not taking the issue seriously as it has failed to respond even after 24 hours. The deputy chairpersons, Dr. Najma Heptulla, said the law minister sought permission to make a statement on the issue at 1730. As protest from the opposition continued, Dr. Heptulla adjourned the house at 1700.

Former Jammu, Kashmir Troops Join War on Militancy

BK0408022893 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 26 Jul 93 p 3

[Excerpt] Ex-servicemen of Jammu and Kashmir [J&K] are being actively involved in the fight against militancy, Governor Krishna Rao has said.

Speaking at a function organised to launch an ex-servicemen's cooperative edible oil manufacturing unit at the industrial estate of Bari Brahmna near here on Sunday, the former Army chief said companies of ex-servicemen have been set up in Doda, Poonch and Rajouri districts to assist the security forces in fighting militancy.

If the experiment succeeds, more such companies would be set up on a permanent basis in the police force in other districts, he added.

In a situation where the Army was being called upon so often to perform internal security duties, it would only be sensible to tap the available talent resource in the shape of ex-servicemen, Rao said.

With their high sense of duty, the ex-servicemen can not only benefit themselves but also the country in different spheres, he added.

He recalled that during his tenure as Army chief he had suggested cooperative schemes for ex-servicemen. The scheme was already in implementation in Punjab, Haryana and Tamil Nadu and now J&K has also started it, he said, appealing to all other States to follow suit.

Referring to the demand for more incentives to the new venture, Rao said the State has been facing a financial crunch with a mounting debt of Rs [rupees] 2,800 crore and a deficit of Rs 1.240 crore. He would ask the Centre for relief following the devastation caused by the recent floods in the State.

Former union minister Karan Singh, who presided over the function, said the vast potential of ex-servicemen should be utilised for the betterment of the country. Maj Gen Goverdhan Singh Jamwal (Retd), chairman of the venture, said the Rs 7 crore Vanaspati project-with a capacity of 3.2 tonnes per day and an annual turnover of Rs 40 crore-was the first of its kind in the country. Ten per cent of its profits would go for the welfare of war widows and widows of ex-servicemen, he added. [passage omitted]

Nondeclaration of Pakistan as Terrorist State Deplored

BK0408033493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, has said any human rights organization, including Amnesty International, can visit Kashmir to see for itself the situation in the valley. He said there is also no restriction on the international media to visit the valley. Speaking during a panel discussion on Kashmir in New Delhi, Mr. Khurshid said the government has taken strict action whenever instances of human rights violations have come to light. He regretted that the United States has not declared Pakistan a terrorist state despite convincing evidence of Islamabad's large-scale abetment and assistance to terrorists in Kashmir.

U.S. Nonproliferation Policy Viewed

BK0408030093 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 29 Jul 93 p 8

[By Amrita Abraham: "Pressure Mounts on India"]

[Text] The most useful reading we can make of the cryogenic rocket affair and of hard-nosed American statements on Kashmir, human rights and trade, is that India comes very low in the Clinton Administration's list of international priorities. Until now it was possible to imagine the transition to a new and Democratic Administration in the US and India's economic liberalisation policies would provide the impetus for putting relations between the two countries on a better footing. That clearly is not about to happen unless India can change the way it is perceived in Washington.

Behind America's squashing of the Indo-Russian rocket deal lies not so much a misunderstanding of Indian intentions and scientific capabilities or failure to recognise the impact it would have on Indo-US relations—some American thinktanks hoping to influence the Clinton Administration's policy towards India have

made those points very well—as a willingness to subordinate Indian interests to America's pursuit of its own particular non-proliferation objectives. Russia and the CIS states were the prime US concerns; India is so peripheral on the US map of the world that trade sanctions against ISRO [Indian Space Research Organisation] are not being lifted immediately, as in all fairness they should be, but have become one more means of twisting India's arm to adhere to the MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime).

The US has shown it intends to strengthen the NPT (Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty) and MTCR, centrepieces of its non-proliferation policy, in ways which will perpetuate its freedom to make a unilateral determination of what constitutes a proliferation threat and how it should be dealt with. After sanctions were imposed on Glavkosmos and ISRO by the Bush Administration last year, the Indo-Russian deal was suspended but not cancelled. Following a series of national export controls on dual-use technologies which Russia (and CIS countries) adopted in the meanwhile, some akin to but outside the MTCR, the possibility arose of Moscow making its own determination of whether the Glavkosmos-ISRO deal could go through and what restraints on end-use could be placed on India. This certainly is how senior members of the two Russian space agencies seemed to understand the situation before the Yeltsin-Clinton meeting in Tokyo and this is probably what influenced U. R. Rao's optimistic announcement from Moscow.

But if an Indo-Russian deal had taken place in that form, it would have had the effect of challenging the status of the 1987 US sponsored MTCR as the sole determinant of missile proliferation. The purpose of carrots and the stick, commercial incentives and sanctions for Russia's space agencies, on the basis of which US officials negotiated in Washington, was to nip a parallel Russian system in the bud and with it the Indo-Russian deal. Clearly it is in America's interest for Russia and China, both of whom have promised to abide by the MTCR but have not signed it, to conform closely to the MTCR and not set up rival, independent non-proliferation controls, differently interpreted and applied. The regime Washington presides over is designed so as not to interfere with its own strategic and foreign policy goals (e.g. in the Middle East where the US exports missiles and know-how to Israel).

Having got Russia to fall in line the next US target must be China which was still exporting M-ll missiles and technology to Pakistan and Syria one year after agreeing to adhere to the MTCR. But it remains to be seen how much success can be achieved there. One can interpret the contradictions between what the Chinese say and do as reflecting differences between civilian and military leaders over missile sales. A better explanation may lie in a speech on arms transfers by China's delegate to 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Delhi last April. He said Beijing is opposed to discriminatory applications of arms control measures, believes it is unwise to ignore the security concerns of small and medium-sized countries and is against measures which "compromise or affect the peaceful applications of advances in science and technology by the developing countries." If we accept this as the true position, it suggests that Chinese policy is not just at odds with the MTCR, it also contains the germ of an alternative non-proliferation regime.

It is difficult to see how Washington can get Beijing's compliance with the ITCR just now. China has both an ambitious commercial space programme of its own with entities like the Great Wall Industry Corporation, and aggressive weapons-export corporations like New Era and Poly Technologies. And then again, China is well placed to retaliate against US commercial interests: US direct investment amounted to over $6 billion by the end of last year and US exports to China are worth some $3 billion and 100,000 American jobs.

Just as the US has a strong compulsion to tighten up the MTCR and prevent departures from it, so it must act on the NPT front in various ways. Vis-a-vis North Korea which at first threatened to pull out of the treaty and continues to resist IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspection of two nuclear dumps, the US must prevent any exceptions being made or new precedents being set. Vis-a-vis Japan and others, the US must try to ensure there are no doubting Thomases when the NPT comes up for indefinite extension in 1995. Vis a vis India, viewed as cussed and a major obstacle to universal acceptance of the NPT, pressure to sign has been increased as witness the US embassy's prohibitions on the reprocessing of spent fuel after the Indo-US agreement on Tarapur expires.

Thus, although the NPT and MTCR are demonstrably discriminatory in principle and practice, the US is determined that they alone should be the basis of global non-proliferation. It will not tolerate alternative models or parallel methods and is disinclined to consider ways of improving its own regimes. So eager is the Clinton Administration to push through extension of the NPT unchanged that, by declaring a unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests for 15 months, it has virtually committed itself (hastily in light of the silence from Beijing) to bringing about a Comprehensive Test Ban within the next two years as token of the five weapons powers' own progress on disarmament. Other confidence-building measures on the anvil are a Big Five freeze on production of fissile material and a no-first-use of nuclear weapons declaration.

Although the chips are stacked against India, a few things can be done while pressing on with our industrial development. An expert body has studied the question of India's nuclear policy and apparently advised the Government against India signing the NPT. India cannot and should not sign a treaty consigning us to permanent second-class status. Some steps to narrow the gap between India and the US on the NPT have also been aired such as a unilateral no-first-use declaration, placing

all but two or three nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards and tightening India's own export controls on nuclear and missile parts and knowhow. It seems likely, when India is considered such a soft target, that these measures will whet the US appetite for more. But some such measures could improve India's credentials as it pursues through more active diplomacy than we have seen lately an alternative agenda on non- proliferation (the Rajiv Declaration, perhaps).

Iran

Ceremony Confirms Hashemi-Rafsanjani as President 3 Aug

Interior Minister Reports on Election

LD0308150093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1019 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Report on sixth presidential elections read by Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri at the confirmation ceremony for President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in Tehran on 3 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

In spite of the poisonous propaganda and sinister insinuation of the foreigners who exaggerated the inevitable difficulties of the reconstruction era and post-war problems, and tried to reduce the presence of our compatriots in the national arena, the Muslim people of Iran, have, with alertness and discipline, rejected the adverse foreign propaganda and displayed their solidarity, thus playing a prominent role on the arena of domestic propaganda, foiling the plots of foreign enemies and their domestic agents. [passage omitted]

Here I should point to some of the statistics concerning the presidential election results: 57 percent of eligible voters took part in the elections. Out of the total number of voters, 39 percent voted in rural areas and 61 percent in urban areas. Out of the total of voters, 44 percent were women and 56 percent men; 26.5 were single persons, 73.5 married; 7.8 percent of the total voters had higher education qualifications, 33.7 percent had secondary education qualifications, 29.5 percent had primary education, and 29 percent did not have any education to speak of. Moreover, out of the total of voters, 18 percent were between the ages of 16 and 20; 15.5 percent were between the ages of 21 and 25; 24 percent were between the ages of 26 and 35; 27 percent were between the ages of 36 and 50 and 15 percent were aged 51 and over. A compilation of all the results is also available. [passage omitted]

I beseech God, the Almighty, to grant his grace to the blessed soul of the great banner-carrier of freedom of justice in our times—founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran—his holiness, the imam, God's mercy be upon him; and to grant health and glory to the eminent leader—the brilliant face of the revolution and leader and guide of the Islamic ummah, and to grant success, pride and streadfastness to the captain of the ship of the executive system of the country—a strong and courageous man of the arena of difficulties, the respected president. I beseech God to grant happiness and success to the noble and combatant nation of Iran. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Outlines Plans

LD0308152493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1043 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at his confirmation ceremony in Tehran on 3 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the kindness and trust which was conveyed to me today on behalf of the eminent leader of the revolution in this Islamic-national gathering. The wise edict will be a guide for me and my colleagues during our term of responsibility. The thing which makes me feel somewhat ashamed is the particular description which was conveyed by his eminence's pen about my humble self. I do not feel worthy of so much trust and approval. And yet, I am certain that his eminence would not express anything other than that which he believes and feels to be true. That is why it will serve as a very valuable psychological support for me and my colleagues to know that our dear and wise leader thinks so well of us, and, especially so, because his remarks follow a difficult period of administrative responsibility and because nothing escapes his penetrating vision. [passage omitted]

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the nation for their trust after the difficult first stage of reconstruction which we have put behind us. They reaffirmed their trust. The endless waves of propaganda and the massive amounts of demagoguery did not succeed in deceiving the strong majority of our nation and they made their choice in a way that was pleasing to the leader of their revolution.

I would also like to say a few words about the current state of things, now, in these early moments of a new term of responsibility. At this historic moment, let us make a brief comparison—today, when the nation and the leader have placed this responsibility on my shoulders—between our circumstances now and our circumstances four years ago.

Then, many anxieties pervaded our society and our enemies nurtured false hopes that the sacred tree of our revolution would prove weak. The security of the nation was questionable because of the shaky state of the cease-fire [ending the Iran-Iraq war] and because of the unity of our enemies and their aggressive posture toward us. The very extensive damage caused by the war and the

revolution, the established figure for which is $1,000 billion, had given a very bleak face to our economy and our lives. The precious personality [Khomeyni], who had been able to remove the country's greatest problems with a wave of a finger, was no longer among us and our enemies were hoping that difficulties would break out and that there would be confusion and an absence of leadership in the hard post-war period. [passage omitted]

In those circumstances, we, fortunately, began our work. The most prominent feature of that period was the fact that we drew up a plan, something which we had lacked since the beginning of the revolution. We began, then, with our first five-year plan.

I do not want to give you a list of our achievements, our services, or our weak points now. I just want to make a brief review and a comparison.

Then, there were worries that the people would abandon the stage because of those difficult circumstances. But we can see today that our people continue to be deeply involved. They are consciously and knowledgeably on the stage. We saw the latest manifestation of this fact in heroic Azerbaijan [reference to Khamene'i's recent visit to East Azerbaijan province]. The Azerbaijanis presented the most splendid national-popular display to demonstrate the warmth of feeling between the leader and the people, between the regime and the nation.

Of course, we have seen plenty of these scenes where intense enthusiasm is displayed, and today we have witnessed a peak of this enthusiasm in Azerbaijan. No one can deny that the revolution is as joyful and fresh as it was at its beginning and in the time of our departed imam and that people are present on the scene as before.

Infrastructural works have progressed enormously and we have put behind us the most difficult period of the reconstruction decade. As much or more work to overcome difficulties has been done in the last four years as in the previous 10. Most things which at the start of the work of this government seemed like insurmountable problems or crises are no longer so today—in the energy, fuel, and transport sectors, in production, the provision of needs; normalization of daily life, breaking of many ranks, normalizing the life of the bazaar.

Of course it was thanks to the patience and endurance of the people; to much effort and the relentless support of the judicial and legislative branches under the guidance and grace of the dear and learned leader, the eminent faqih [jurisconsult] and alert theologian of our times—a human being who is fully aware to the conditions of the times and our needs—that all this was achieved. The difficult uphill paths and pitfalls of reconstruction have been crossed and we are now standing on the threshold of our second plan.

I hope, God willing, that when people get to know about the figures, statistics, policies, objectives, and implementation methods of the plan through the media and the Majles, they will understand, and those who have not understood up to now will understand better that it was the right choice and that we have no other choice; they should understand that our people have got used to consuming the natural reserves and resources and not the old manufactured products of the people of this country—and that they consume those God-given wealths such as oil, water, electricity, bread, sugar, vegetable oil, everything at less than the cost price even; that is, they only pay for transport and consume the rest from their own treasury and from the wealth of the next generation. This argument clearly cannot be defended because our people will definitely not accept a policy which would bring future poverty on the growing population and would empty the pockets and reserves of the generations to come. No intelligent person would accept this kind of life, and all the world is seeking to consume what they manufacture, create, or produce, and not that which God has meant to be invested in our progress. May God curse those who during these past centuries when most of the world's countries were able, in spite of the poverty of their natural resources, to develop their countries through work and endeavor, while they forced us to become accustomed consuming our own natural wealth and not developing the country.

There was a need, eventually, for someone to have the resolve to break this spell and place this correct path before the people. The concern in those days was that public opinion would not tolerate this, and my most intimate friends used to tell me that the reconstruction pace was faster than the tolerance threshold of the people. But, with the knowledge I had about the people and their situation, I used to say: We are even moving slowly; we have lost a lot of opportunities and we have very little opportunity left in the future. We have to cut the roots of independence; we have to do something so that if anything befalls this nation, we would be able to have the right kind of life domestically and not to be dependent on the market and production of others. This can only be achieved with infrastructure and fundamental moves, rather than with filling stomachs with free meals, even at more expenditure. When, for instance, we buy sugar from the factory at 60 tomans and give it for three tomans to the consumer after transportation costs, and when we use $14 billion worth of free fuel in the country—not even water is used in this way today by anyone in the world—when we use this vital substance in this way, well, no wonder we do not get anywhere.

These people are, therefore, aware, and their votes have also demonstrated it. Two-thirds of the vote, under the most difficult conditions of adjustment and all those propaganda bombardments and demagoguery inside and outside the country, represents a great and living testimony to the alertness and awareness of the people, even though I do not consider myself as worthy. It may be that the people have a certain image of me; that is a different story.

I hope that with the valuable trust that we have received from our nation and eminent leader, we will, as has been asked of us, be able to continue to move along the

straight path of social justice and consolidate the pillars of the revolution and Islam and eliminate this country's foreign dependence; this has been the most important slogan and aspiration of the revolution. I am sure that in the future, as in the past, we will enjoy the support of all the great personalities; figures and dear families of the martyrs and other self-sacrificers and our ever-present ummah and our imam's prayers.

Once again I thank my eminent brother, his excellency Haj Ahmad Aqa [Khomeyni] who has always backed the government and the system and has served the leader, and hope he may be still more successful. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Khamene'i Praises Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0308161293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1104 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Speech by Islamic Revolution leader Ayatollah Khamene'i at the presidential confirmation ceremony in Tehran on 3 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. God willing, today is a blissful day for the Iranian nation. It is the start of another round of responsiblity and management by our dear, able, and esteemed president. In fact, in view of the world situation and the designs of our enemies and the efforts which the enemies have made during this period, this is a major divine blessing.

Of course, first of all, I should thank our dear nation. The people with their alertness and their sense of responsibility came upon the stage, took part in the elections, and made this correct and decisive choice. [passage omitted]

In the Islamic system, what will be fought with the greatest severity is the propagation of corruption. In the Islamic system one will not fight in the same way against bad and incorrect beliefs as one will fight against wrong and immoral action and, God forbid, the spreading and propagation of corruption. Today, in the period of reconstruction, what the high officials of the country, those who work in the government, second-grade or third-grade managers in government departments down to the lowest strata, should pay the greatest attention to is that they should know that during this period the appearance and spread of corruption is a serious danger, and it paralyzes the system. It is truly paralyzing. [passage omitted]

The reason we stress the importance of management, the reason we feel so thankful to God that the management of the country is in the hands of a qualified, tested, known character—and I have personally known him since the year 36 [starting in March 1957], or nearly 40 years ago; we have been together and have struggled side by side in different fields, we have worked together, we have thought together; a 40 year-long test is sufficient to create trust in aperson. During all this time I have seen him working in the path of God, in the path of truth, in the path of propagating religion and advancing Islamic aspirations. I have never seen him deviate from that path. The reason that we feel happy is that a manager can have such a role. All those who cooperate with him in any role should have the same qualities.

Of course, I should tell you that as the result of the experience I have gained in executive affairs in the course of a few years, I have come to the conclusion that if a manager wishes to protect the area under his control in a healthy fashion, he should supervise all those who have a share in implementing the work. One cannot say that as we have appointed a good minister the work is done. No, the minister should also appoint good deputy ministers, should appoint good managers, should appoint good officials in charge of various sections. [passage omitted]

The Islamic system believes in a prosperous society, not a poor and backward society. The Islamic system believes in economic growth, but economic growth for the sake of social justice and public welfare. This is the issue. What is of the greatest importance is that there should be no poor people in society, there should be no deprived people, there should not be any discrimination in making use of public facilities. [passage omitted]

All progressive nations of the world are common in the belief that if a nation allows its national culture to be destroyed as the result of the onslaught of alien cultures, that nation is destroyed, that nation is finished. A dominant nation is a nation whose culture is dominant. It is cultural domination that will result in economic, political, security, and military domination. See what an effort is made by the powerful countries of the world to spread their language around the world, because language is the strongest aspect of a nation's culture and a major means for transferring it. They transfer their clothing, their manners, their customs, their beliefs, their social ideals.

Today the world powers are trying to propagate their culture through the use of military power. Look at the Americans. They believe in a particular form of government, state, and social and economic system. They send their forces to this or that part of the world because they say that their form of government and their form of life is not holding sway there. Well, it is none of your business. This shows the limit of the violent export and illegal influence of alien cultures.

Of course, they do this under attractive slogans such as human rights. No one asks the Americans where else in the world they treat the blacks the way that you deal with them! Where in the world do they set fire to and burn alive hundreds of people, men, women and children in a building! If you find a place like that, then protest and say that human rights are violated there. This is what happened in America. We cannot think of another place

where such things were done. The Zionists, who are the most violent people in the world, are acting with American support.

In cultural fields, brothers and sisters, what should be the general policy of the country is the preservation, safeguarding, and complete and intense reliance upon national culture. Of course, one of the most important elements of our national culture is Islam. Since 1,300 or 1,350 years ago, we the Iranian people have been proud that our culture, our language, our customs, our habits, our dress, and every aspect of our lives have been impregnated with Islam. Perhaps no other nation was so permeated by Islam as this nation. Islam, Islamic customs, and Islamic culture are parts of our national culture. Here national culture is not in opposition to Islam. It is the same as Islamic. National culture means indigenous culture. Our indigenous culture should be preserved.

Of course, the indigenous culture borrows elements from other cultures. We do not oppose that. Seek knowledge even if you have go to China for it. [quotation from Prophet, spoken in Arabic] This saying that one must travel and bring good things back from various parts of the world is in itself a culture, constituting a part of our own culture which we must preserve. But the important point is that it is we who should go and bring these things. We must chew, swallow, and digest what we ourselves feel necessary for our bodies. [passage omitted]

The policy of independence, that is to say full independence in all areas, constitutes the main slogan and the pillar of the Islamic Republic of Iran's policies. This means that we must accept bullying from absolutely nobody, and we must resolve international issues according to our very own criteria. We deal with the Palestine issue according to our own criteria, which we also use to take steps and make judgments about that issue. We will not follow any world power. We act in a similar way in relation to the Balkan problem. In relation to the issue of Afghanistan, during eight years of war [with Iraq], we stood firm and adhered to the foundations of our Islamic viewpoint and vision in connection with that issue. This was despite all difficulties and hardships which we had to endure because of the war. This is what you call independence. When policies such as these are in mind, and that kind of policy management is present, then the country will be administered well.

Dear gentlemen, esteemed officials, dear sisters and brothers! Our dear nation is that unique nation in which the country's official can have complete trust. This great nation is a very good nation. Our eminent imam knew this nation very well. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Takes Oath of Office 4 Aug

LD0408082893 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani took the oath of office before the Holy Koran and the Majles Wednesday [4 August] thus officially starting his 2nd term of office as the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. President Rafsanjani swore by the Holy Koran that he will devote himself to the nation, the progress of the country, promotion of Islam and ethics, and to truth and justice.

Article 121 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran stipulates that the elected president must be sworn in before the Majles at the presence of the judiciary head and the members of the Guardians Council. Rafsanjani's presidential decree was officially endorsed by the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Tuesday in accordance with the ninth item of Article 110 of the Constitution.

The ceremony held in the presence of judiciary head Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, son of the late Imam Khomeyni, members of the Guardians Council, presidential advisors and deputies, cabinet ministers, provincial Friday prayer leaders, as well as other ranking civilian and military officials and ambassadors in Tehran.

Inaugurating the oath-taking ceremony, Majles Speaker Hojjat ol- Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri lauded President Rafsanjani for the efforts he made during his first four-year term. President Rafsanjani took office in a very critical condition and a while after the demise of the founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeyni when the devastating Iraqi imposed war against Iran had just ended and the country's budget deficit surpassed 50 percent, he said. Nateq-Nuri underlined that one could hardly take control of the country under such critical circumstances and that the situation was such that devotion and self-sacrifice were required. It was under these circumstances, he said, that the president entered the field.

The Majles speaker noted that many problems of the country have been removed ever since and that the wheels of the industry set in motion, the budget deficit this year is zero and many other infrastructural works carried out. However, he said that a number of plans have not been accomplished yet and some others are expected to be finished soon. He added that the first five-year plan headed forward very successfully under Rafsanjani's presidency and that it was ahead of the plan in many aspects.

Nateq-Nuri further notified that Rafsanjani's coming to office was coincided with the outbreak of the Persian Gulf war when the least negligence could set the country ablaze. But, he added, the crisis was surmounted by the guidelines of the supreme leader and the wise moves taken by the president and the head of the Supreme National Security Council.

The sixth presidential election was held in conditions that the single parity rate system and economic adjustment had just been introduced (April 14) and that an incurred inflation was predictable, he said. However, despite all the malicious propaganda by the inside and outside enemies, the people cast their ballots and voted

for President Rafsanjani. He secured more than 10.6 million votes, or some 63 percent of the total ballots cast in the elections held June 11.

Nateq-Nuri wished success for President Rafsanjani and called on the Majles deputies to give their votes of confidence to the new cabinet ministers to be introduced to the Majles in the next two weeks "away from any tension."

Speeches Delivered

LD0408110393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Excerpts] At the start of the second presidential term of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and in accordance with Article 121 of the Constitution, the president took the oath of office this morning in the open session of the Majles. [passage omitted]

In today's ceremonies the heads of the three powers also explained their viewpoints about the situation of the country and evaluated future plans and programs. Our correspondent has sent us a report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] After taking the oath of office, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his speech stressed the importance of safeguarding Islamic values and protecting individual and social freedoms as the gains of the Islamic revolution. He described efforts to advance the country and implement justice in society as very important and said that cooperation, collaboration, and serious mutual understanding, accompanied by goodwill, is needed for the implementation of this task.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the implementation of the policy for bringing about greater economic equality as a major step toward the solution of the problems of the country and the establishment of true justice in society. He also referred to the need to bring expenditure in line with income.

The president of our country said that paying attention to the deprived areas of our country and continuing the reconstruction of war-ravaged areas, as well as clarifying the policies for the payment of subsidies, are the main features of the second development plan. He added that paying greater attention to war disabled and the families of the martyrs is one of the principal policies of the government and has been given great prominence in the second development plan.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has never been and will never be adventurous. We believe that in a calm and secure environment the expansion and influence of Islam will be greater, because we possess a strong logic and we try to be present on the world stage as a strong spiritual and cultural center.

At the beginning of today's open session Mr. Nateq-Nuri, the Majles speaker, congratulated the president for the confirmation of his decree by the esteemed leader. Referring to the emphatic utterances of the leader about the implementation of social justice and paying special attention to the deprived classes, he expressed his hope that the president of our country by making use of past experiences and by utilizing able and skillful individuals will be successful in achieving those goals.

Before the swearing-in ceremony Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, providing an outline of the system of the Islamic Republic, stressed that all the organizations, departments, and administration of the system of the Islamic Republic derive their legitimacy from the position of velayat [guardianship] and leadership. He stressed the need for greater coordination and cooperation among the three powers of the country in the advancement of affairs. [end recording]

Commentary Hails Popular Participation in Election

NC0408081593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i confirmed the decree for the term of office of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, elected president by the Iranian nation. High-level civilian and military officials and ambassadors resident in Tehran attended the special ceremonies at the Hoseynieh-ye Emam Khomeyni. The people's extensive participation in the sixth round of presidential elections in Iran on 11 June again belied all political balances, unrealistic calculations, and spiteful analyses. [passage omitted]

Far-reaching changes have occurred in the contemporary world, such as the elimination of the bipolar system, the outbreak of wars and bloody conflicts in most places, and, most important, the plots of the powers of world arrogance using their propaganda networks to try to break the spirit of resistance in the Iranian nation. By preserving its revolutionary bias and by affirming its unique and distinctive awareness, the combatant Iranian nation has foiled all these plots. By its consistent and direct participation in the various political, economic, and social spheres, it has displayed its revolutionary zeal and acumen. The revolutionary Iranian nation has repeatedly proved that it is devoted of the divine system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and will continue its unstinting efforts to work to consolidate it. It will continue to give a positive response to the call of the leader and all the officials of Iran and will defeat the revolution's enemies.

The people's extensive participation in the sixth round of Iranian presidential elections is another outstanding example of this sense of loyalty and extraordinary perceptiveness. The Iranian nation has always defeated the

enemy—wherever its presence was required to defend itself, the revolution, and the Iranian system—and responded to the divine call. It has displayed its vigilance, motivation, and sensitivity in the election of its president by going to the polls in accordance with the will of Imam Khomeyni, the nation's spiritual guide and mentor. By making the appropriate choice, the Iranian nation has affirmed that it rightfully deserves respect. [passage omitted]

On principle, inasmuch as the objective of the Islamic Republic's system is to establish Islamic justice, there is no room for doubt that the obligation of its echelons and officials is primarily to exalt Islam and the Islamic homeland on the path of divine justice. From this vantage point, in view of the importance of the country's reconstruction, the executive officials will devote all their efforts toward this end and will strive—with alertness and precise planning—to steer the country toward greater growth and expansion.

They know that the noble and martyr-nurturing nation of Iran remains unswerving in its willingness to assist them and will not neglect giving its guidance, judgment, and appraisal of the country's basic programs.

Based on its valuable experiences and its sense of awareness, and social and political perceptiveness, the noble Iranian nation is prepared to combat all plots, which are hatched by the powers of world arrogance. To do so, it relies on the pure national Islamic culture in such a manner that it negates all the powers of arrogance.

Moroccan Culture Minister Received by President

LD0308183993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Moroccan Cultural Affairs Minister Alla Mohamed Si Naceur this evening. During the meeting the president, expressing satisfaction at the expansion of cultural cooperation between the two countries, pointed out the the importance of exchanging bilateral committees for the purpose of deepening cooperation between Iran and Morocco.

Referring to the Iran's priority in foreign policy of the expansion of cooperation with Islamic states, he said: The fundamental issues of the world of Islam require the Islamic states to strive toward eliminating problems through further utilization of each other's resources.

The president, noting the Zionist regime's recent attacks against Lebanon and the Serbs' crimes in Bosnia, considered the leaders of Muslim states to be responsible to confront such events and reiterated the need for their further serious efforts to present the true power of Islam.

In the course of the meeting, the Moroccan cultural affairs minister, offering a written message from the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan, expressed Morocco's desire to expand bilateral ties and, praising the efforts by our country's president, called for Iran's further support regarding the creation of unanimity among Islamic scholars for the flowering of the talents of the Islamic ummah and eliminating the problems of the world of Islam.

Meets With Majles Speaker

LD0408140193 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1315 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] The visiting Moroccan cultural affairs minister had a meeting with Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri this morning.

Calling for promotion of bilateral ties, the Moroccan minister said he came to Iran to identify the areas in which the two nations would be able to bring closer their collaboration and his country could become more familiar with Iranian culture.

The two sides also discussed the plight of Muslims in Bosnia, Lebanon, and Palestine.

Turkish Foreign Ministry Official Continues Contacts

TA0308183993 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ozdem Sanberk is continuing his contacts in Tehran on bilateral relations and regional issues, especially security problems. Following the first round of talks between the two countries' delegations, which ended last night, Sanberk today met separately with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his two assistants.

According to an ANATOLIA report, during the talks, which generally focused on security issues, Sanberk voiced the Turkish Government's grievances concerning the infiltration of terrorists from Iranian territory into Turkey. In turn, Iranian officials assured that Iran will categorically not allow terrorist activities on its territories and that the necessary measures have been adopted in this regard.

International developments such as the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Middle East peace talks, and the tension on the Afghan-Tajik border were also discussed during Sanberk's meetings. It was noted that there is no significant difference of opinion between the two sides on these matters.

* Skirmishes Between Law Enforcement, People

93LA0129A London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] The Islamic Republic in Iran is extremely worried that the uprisings that shook Iran last year in Mashhad, Arak, Shiraz, and other cities will also be repeated this year on an even more extensive scale, to include Tehran. The commander of the basij resistance forces announced

that 330,000 basijis will be doing their duty as "advisers" to "enjoin good and prohibit evil." However, political observers in Iran think that the reason for the mobilization of such a large force is that the regime wants to be ready in case of an uprising, especially in Tehran.

At the same time there are reports from Tehran and the municipalities that clashes between the public and the basijis have become daily occurrences. For this reason the commander of the basij forces has announced that "violence and abuse" of the basijis will be subject to the maximum penalties. However, this threat has not prevented the clashes.

The largest clash so far between the police and the public was in Esfahan's Mobarakeh city, where almost 1,000 people were injured or arrested (a miracle of the "luminous nation"). Likewise, a number of Tehran merchants closed their stores when the mayor's office tried to collect heavy tax levies from them, and there were also scuffles between them and municipal agents.

Although there are unconfirmed reports that in Tehran tens of people have been hanged in public as narcotics dealers, travelers these days coming from the capital to Europe say that despite the superficial calm in Tehran, it seems that the city is expecting something to happen sooner or later. Some of the regime's leaders refer in their speeches and interviews to the "very sensitive situation" in the country, without explicitly saying, of course, what this "sensitive situation" is and from whence it arises. See our reports on pages 2 and 3, as well as our article on page 6 entitled: "The Shell Game."

* Appointments to Various Offices Announced

93LA0126H Tehran SALAM in Persian 7 Jul 93 p 4

[Text] By order of the minister of culture and higher education, Dr. Khalili was appointed chief of the Permanent Secretariat of the International Congress for the Advancement of Science and Technology in the Muslim World.

The public relations office of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education reports that this appointment was held following a meeting of the International Congress for the Advancement of Science and Technology in the Muslim World in the month of Ordibehesht [21 Apr-21 May] this year.

Based on this report, the Permanent Secretariat of the International Congress for the Advancement of Science and Technology in the Muslim World has the responsibility for communications between science and research centers and institutions, professors, researchers, Muslim students, for following up on measures enacted, for arranging and holding future congresses, for forming academic and executive committees, and for determining the time and place of each meeting.

It is necessary to note that researchers and scholars from 20 nations attended the International Congress for the Advancement of Science and Technology in the Muslim World, and during that meeting the latest developments in the Islamic nations were studied.

The public relations office of the Ministry of Energy announced: In separate decrees by Dr. Mostafa Mo'in, minister of culture and higher education, Dr. 'Ali Mohammad Zanjir was appointed deputy minister of energy for energy affairs, Engineer Mohammad Malaki was appointed deputy minister of energy for electrical affairs, Engineer 'Ali Vakili was appointed deputy minister of energy for water affairs, Engineer Gholamreza Manuchehri was appointed deputy minister of energy for water and urban sewage affairs, and Engineer Habibollah Bitaraf was appointed deputy minister of energy for reconstruction and training affairs and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Martyr 'Abbaspur College of Water and Electricity, and they assumed their duties.

The public relations office of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction announced: By order of Engineer Kazeruni, minister of housing and urban construction, Dr. Farhad Daneshju was appointed chief of the Center for Construction and Housing Research and assumed his duties.

The public relations office of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education reports that by order of Dr. Seyyed Javad Azhari, this organization's deputy minister for research, Dr. Karon Abri-Niya was appointed general manager of the Research Affairs Office. Dr. Azhari also praised and thanked Dr. Davud Soleymani for his valuable efforts in a letter.

* Appointments in Ministry of Roads, Transport

93LA0126G Tehran SALAM in Persian 7 Jul 93 p 3

[Text] The public relations office of the Ministry of Roads and Transportation announced: In separate decrees by Engineer Mohammad Sa'idi-Kiya, the minister of roads and transportation appointed Engineer Naser Purmirza chief of this ministry's Center for Research and Studies, and Engineer Abol-Fazl Nafeh-Meshkin as general manager of roads and transportation for the province of Gilan, and they assumed their duties.

* New Regulations for Passengers Going Abroad

93LA0129B London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Jul 93 p 2

[Text] Based on the new customs regulations in Iran, henceforth passengers going abroad will be allowed to take with them $10,000 in currency or checks for each visa. Travelers may also take with them a 10- to 15-meter large rug or carpet or two handwoven or machine-made small rugs.

The rules for taking out handicrafts have also changed, and contrary to the past when handicrafts up to a specific

value could be taken out, henceforth each passenger may take with him one of each item without regard to a maximum value.

Engineer Aruri, deputy national customs official in Tehran, said: Nonmanuscript books and publications and goods and products made in Iran may be taken out without restriction on value per passenger.

The new customs regulations announce that one my take out 3 kg of caviar by submitting a receipt that it was purchased from the Fisheries Company. Other new customs provisions include importing bicycles and their parts regardless of the manufacturer's name.

There is also no obstacle to the release of motorcycles, regardless of the manufacturer's name.

* Coke: 'Treason' Against Domestic Industries

93LA0129E London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Jul 93 p 4

[Article from JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 26 Tir 1372 (17 Jul 1993)]

[Text] Coca-Cola has returned to Iran, and this has angered beverage makers in Iran.

REUTER and the Central News Unit report that since the month of February, when a Coca-Cola factory went into operation in Mashhad, clean bottles of Coca-Cola have crowded the old bottles of Iranian carbonated beverages off the shelves.

Coca-Cola ads in the newspapers take up half a page and call on people to try the real Coca-Cola.

In the supermarkets, red "drink Coca-Cola" signs greet the eyes of customers. Iranians pay 250 rials [Rls] to drink a bottle of the real Coca-Cola, while the price of other drinks is Rls150.

No figures are available now on what part Coca-Cola has taken of the 2-billion-bottle beverage market in Iran, but owners of government beverage plants claim that if the government does not do something, the continuation of the current situation will bankrupt them.

The owners of government beverage plants have started a press campaign against imported carbonated beverages. They say that based on the commands of Islam, consumption of these kinds of beverages is forbidden because they contain alcohol.

'Abbas Rabi'i, chief of the Khosh Nush Beverage Company, in an interview published in the newspaper KAR O KARGAR on Wednesday, said that imports of nonalcoholic beverages contain cocaine, caffeine, and alcohol, and we expect the Foodstuffs Supervision Office to make the necessary tests.

Maqsud Shokurzadeh-Nobari, manager of the Sasan Beverage Company, told the newspaper KEYHAN that during the war, domestic beverage makers did not have the opportunity to create anything new. Therefore, the importation of international Coca-Cola is seen as a dangerous measure, and this could do irreparable damage to these companies.

Mohammad Qorbani, chief of the Zamzam Company, has called the importation of Coca-Cola into Iran an act of treason against domestic industries.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Denies Possession of Nuclear Weapons

PM0408115493 Paris LE MONDE in French 4 Aug 93 p 4

["P. de B." report: "Foreign Minister Visits Paris: Pakistan Denies Possession of Nuclear Bomb"]

[Text] "We do not have the nuclear bomb, and we do not want it," the Pakistani foreign minister said Monday, 2 August, during a visit to Paris. However, Abdul Sattar added that "we possess a certain nuclear capability or potential. But our government's decision is steadfast: We have no desire to turn this potential into a reality." These remarks were in response to a statement by the former chief of staff and head of Pakistan's nuclear program, General Aslam Beg—indirectly confirmed by former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan—that Pakistan has possessed nuclear weapons since 1987. This information has been widely confirmed by non-Pakistani sources.

Mr. Sattar said that General Beg made these remarks while campaigning for the elections in October; Beg's ambition was to be elected president. He recalled his government's position that the entire Indian subcontinent, and not just Pakistan, must be nuclear-free. "We do not accept that (international) pressures be put on Pakistan alone," he said, despite the fact that India exploded a nuclear device in 1974.

The Pakistani minister is in Paris at the head of a delegation of Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] countries charged with briefing the five permanent members of the UN Security Council on unrest in the Muslim countries over the situation in Bosnia. The delegation—which is made up of the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Senegal, Tunisia, and Turkey, as well as the ICO's secretary general—was due to be received by Alain Juppe Tuesday afternoon before proceeding to London Wednesday. Several members of the ICO—including Pakistan, Malaysia, Tunisia, and Bangladesh—have suggested to the UN secretary general that they make troops available to him.

'Foreign Hand' Alleged in Lahore Blasts

BK0308155093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Three blasts occurred in Lahore this afternoon, injuring nine people and slightly damaging some property. One of these blasts occurred on the premises of the

High Court, wounding six people. Another blast occurred at the bicycle stand of the Railway Headquarters, injuring three people, damaging several bicycles, and smashing the windowpanes of nearby buildings. The third blast occurred outside the premises of the Pakistan Rangers headquarters, causing no damage.

Agency reports said that a foreign hand is involved in these incidents, which are intended to create disturbances and chaos in the country.

PPP Leader Quits Party

BK0308153693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, a leader of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], has resigned from the primary membership of the party. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, he said that he is leaving the party due to his differences with the PPP on the party's changing stand on the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution, political consultations, and matters like the party's association with the former president. Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani said that he has not yet decided on joining another party, but added that he will take part in the National Assembly elections.

JI Chief Criticizes Caretaker Government

BK0308140193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 3 Aug 93 p 4

[Text] Peshawar—Accusing the caretaker Prime Minister of having propounded the so-called "third option" on Kashmir, JI [Jamaat-i-Islami] leader Qazi Hussain Ahmad Mondayd threatened to launch a long march against the caretaker government if it stepped out of is mandate to hold free and fair elections in the country.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad announced this amid applause and slogans of Allah-o-Akbar (God is Great), while addressing the Pakistan Islamic Front workers convention at Nishtar Hall. The JI leader, quoting a statement of caretaker Prime Minister Moin Qureshi, charged him with having hinted at Pakistan's agreement to the "third option", paving way for an independent Kashmir.

He was also bitter about the government's decision to expel Tajik opposition leader Mohammad Sharif Himatzada and alleged that the action was taken under pressure from the US and the Western lobbies. "We'll resist all such moves and will come out on the roads," he declared.

The JI Chief, who arrived at the venue two hours late, accused former president Ghulam Ishaq Khan, ex-prime minister Nawaz Sharif and opposition leader Benazir Bhutto of having led the country towards the present crisis, which he thought had not ended yet and would persist even after the elections. "The Eighth Amendment is still there and the assemblies would continue to be dissolved, unless the two reach an agreement between them," he said.

The nation, he said, was sick of leaders and wanted an alternative leadership. He said Nawaz Sharif lacked the ability to consult his allies. The former prime minister, he went on to say, even failed to consult Ghulam Ishaq Khan who helped him to power by dismissing Benazir's government. "If he could not get along with the 78-year old man and consult his allies, how could he go with other people?" he asked.

The country, he warned, could face dangerous situation, if the crisis was not resolved. He alleged that foreign powers did not want stability in Pakistan by propping up a puppet regime in the country. Foreign powers, he alleged, wanted to bring in army through its stooges to repeal the Constitution and open the pandora box of the distribution of powers between the federation and the provinces and the president and the prime minister which, he feared, would lead to the disintegration of the country.

Referring to the fighting on the Afghan-Tajik borders, the Qazi said his party, which enjoys good relations with Tajik Mojahedin, should be given an opportunity to resolve the issue with Tajikistan and Russia. Pakistan, he said, had historical cultural and religious ties with the Muslims of Central Asian Republics and, therefore, could not be deprived of its due role in the region.

He charged that the US and Western countries wanted to destabilise Afghanistan, which could serve as a bridge between Pakistan and Central Asia.

Commenting on his efforts to forge an electoral alliance of religious parties, Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad said he had met Maulana Fazlur Rahman, Maulana Samiul Haq, Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani and Ahle Hadith leader Prof Sajid Mir in this connection and asked them to join the alliance. He added that the alliance could prove a formidable force to be reckon with. "I've not lost hope," he remarked.

The JI Chief said it would contest the forthcoming elections under its own flag, manifesto and symbol, but expressed his readiness to enter into an agreement with other "like-minded" parties. He also demanded the right of adult franchise for the tribals. The system of injustice and inequality, he said, could only be changed when a true Islamic revolution was brought about in the country.

Relations With U.S. Called 'Zero-Sum Game'

BK0308142993 Islamabad THE NATION in English 3 Aug 93 p 4

[Editorial by Nasir Abbas Mirza: "Pak-US Relations: A Zero-Sum Game]

[Text] The best example of a zero-sum game is poker where players put money in the pot and someone wins it. No one ever wins a rupee unless someone else has lost it. The analogies are obvious. In economics, one speaks of a

"zero-sum society" where one person's gain is another's loss: "There is no such thing as a free lunch."

The relations betweens the United States and Pakistan are also a classic zero-sum game—our gain is their loss and our loss is their gain. When a superpower goes about playing this game with a Third World country, the results are predictable, or put another way, the results are in front of us.

The rules by which the United States plays can also be enumerated as an hierarchy of foreign policy strategies. They are:

a) Aid

b) Threat

c) Change

d) Trade

e) War

Under normal circumstances, aid alone promises acquiescence and through chosen dictators, kings and monarchs, it helps keep "the allies" behind a limit set by the United States. Aid actually is a misnomer. The donor takes back far more from the Third World countries than what it gives. In any event, no Muslim country can ask for more US assistance than Iran in the sixties and the seventies and Egypt since the Camp David Accords. Egypt, in fact, is the largest recipient of US aid after Israel, but where has this aid taken that country? Has it made any remarkable industrial progress? Has there been a jump in its literacy rate? Of course, the usual retort is that the Egyptians themselves are to blame.

At home, just how bad were the last three years without US assistance? Not bad at all. In fact, we gained, which, according to the zero-sum game, was their loss. So, going by the above hierarchy, we had reached the "threat" level (terrorist state, etc.). Before we could be brought to our knees by "trade", "change" did the trick. US-friendly faces are at the helm to see that we don't deviate from the course charted out for us.

We are far too poor (no oil) to warrant the "war" option. As scandals in the US and Britain have exposed, all wars in the Middle East are directly or indirectly sponsored by the United States. One of the chief aims of the Iran-Iraq war was to stop any democratic movements in the region patterned after the Iranian revolution. The US controls this oil-rich region through corrupt puppet regimes. But, of course, the people living under those regimes are to be blamed.

How many people know that a few years ago which Middle Eastern country was the most industrialised and had the highest literacy rate? It was Iraq. All right, Saddam Husayn is a tyrant but he was putting his petrodollars in the right place, that is, in his own country, rather than Monte Carlo. There is a school of thought which argues for an authoritarian rule for rapid economic and social progress. Examples abound in the Far East. Look what they did to Iraq. But, the Iraqis themselves are to blame.

These are not coffee party conspiracy theories. There are those who dismiss all this as an excuse for our own failings. Senior journalists like Khaled Ahmad ask, "Are we a barbarian state?" That may not be far from the truth but that is precisely the idea of a tight leash. We have been pegged to the ground on a leash and we can only move about in a circle beyond which we cannot step. Those who have attempted, have been summarily pushed back. Within that circle, in a state of poverty and illiteracy, it becomes easy to manipulate and to keep people at war with themselves while a minuscule minority of educated people like Khaled Ahmad ask "Are we a barbarian state?" This sentiment is not too dissimilar to the way the Imperialists think about us. In the words of Edward Said, "It is the airy condescension of damning a whole people 'generally', while mitigating the offense with a cool 'I don't mean you in particular'". What the United States thinks about Pakistan at the policy level is completely different from the impression it gives when it hobnobs with the intelligentsia.

"Barbarian state" takes us to a very old argument. How can you improve human nature until you have changed the system? On the other hand, what is the use of changing the system before you have improved human nature? This is a classical struggle between the moralist and the revolutionary.

In the nineteenth century, Karl Marx blew the moralists away and after nearly a century the moralists have pulled the rug from under the revolutionary's feet. This oscillation will continue for all times to come. In our case, as things stand today, both the moralist and the revolutionary are extinct species.

Paper: U.S. Wants Government 'Minus' Nawaz Sharif

BK0308134393 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 3 Aug 93 pp 1, 10

[Text] US-motivated political whirlwind which recently swept away the democratic institutions, might buffet the nation again after Washington's word of commitment to certain political figures that the new government in Pakistan must be minus-Nawaz Sharif. Hard on the heels of American support, the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] mandarins who are slowly but reluctantly being peeled, backed Washington's proposed plan assuring their all out support to protect US interest in the region.

US policy makers who noticed even a minute change in Pakistani politics have such a highly developed sense of observation that it is hard to sneak anything past them. What upset them most in the recent past was Nawaz's candid approach towards country's socio-economic system. A powerful US-based industrialist lobby

opposed Nawaz economic policy and other privatization to discourage Islamabad's leaning towards Japan and Korean firms.

Nawaz's flexible approach towards self-reliance programme also annoyed the US policy makers the most. Nawaz, a liberal minded politician also declined to entertain IMF and World Bank's wish to increase electricity, gas, and fuel charges. He however, later had to pay a heavy price for his resistance as international aid-giving agencies had made a point to remove him off the political scene.

Caretaker Prime Minister Moin Qureshi who barely had time to change his shirt between his nomination as a prime minister and his meeting with IMF chiefs has formally accepts the proposed increase in the gas and electricity charges. PDA leaders are pondering a strikingly simply idea [as published] for winning US support saying yes to each and every word from Washington. US policy makers have made a point to resist Nawaz at all cost.

Nawaz who has a daring plan for a real war on poverty and social injustice vowed to continue his fight. He treated his political rivals with consummate politeness. Even when given a slap in the face he raised a smile. And that's what won him massive support across the country. Meanwhile the reputation of the gentle people of Pakistan for tolerance and good sense is being put to test by Washington... which have taken it upon itself to disrupt peace and harmony in Pakistan come what may.

The prime task before US policy makers is how to get leader of their choice elected in the next general elections. The caretaker prime minister who is known for his deep love and commitment to US-backed idea has recently returned from the States after having detailed meetings with World Bank and US policy makers. The Prime minister is believed to have decided to honour the ideas of international aid Agencies.